FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 037 *25 February 1985*

ARGENTINA

Alfonsin To Discuss Beagle Agreement With Blocs B 1
Draft Bill Calls for Confiscation of UK Assets B 1
UCR Deputies on Falklands, Beagle Treaty B 1
British Decision Condemned B 1
Peronists Said To Serve UK B 3
Saudi Diplomat Reportedly Involved B 3
Strategy To Recover Falklands Disclosed B 3
[AMBITO FINANCIERO 8 Feb]
Position on Nicaragua Confirmed to U.S. Envoy B 5
Future Ambassador to USSR Discusses Mission B 5
Economy Ministry Reorganized, New Appointments B 6

BRAZIL

Plane Transporting Cocaine Crashes in Paraguay D 1
[O GLOBO 23 Feb]
Paraguayan Caught With 330 Grams of Heroin D 1
[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 23 Feb]

CHILE

Defense Minister Sees Decline in Terrorism E 1
[EL MERCURIO 16 Feb]
Official Denies Assistance to UK Over Falklands E 1
UK Area Expert To Meet With Government Officials E 1

COLOMBIA

Suriname's Bouterse Pays 2-Day Official Visit F 1
Betancur Hosts Luncheon F 1
Cooperation Agreement Signed F 1
Colombian-American Center Dynamited; Watchman Dies F 2
19 People Held F 2
Government Lifts Export Ban on 198 Products F 2
[EL SIGLO 19 Feb]
Defense Minister on Criminals-Guerrillas 'Alliance' F 3
[EL SIGLO 19 Feb]
Briefs: Coca Plantation Discovered F 3

URUGUAY

Nicaraguan Delegation Prepares for Ortega's Visit K 1
42 Prisoners Freed Under 'Early Release' Program K 1

MEXICO

De la Madrid, Reagan Discuss Border Situation M 1
Belizean Prime Minister Concludes Visit M 2
Support for Tourism M 2
Health, Industrial Cooperation M 2
Esquivel Press Conference M 2
On Guatemalan Sea Outlet M 3
[Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas]
Departs for Dominican Republic M 3
Prices of Crude To Be Maintained in March M 4
Energy Secretary on Costa Rican Petroleum Debt M 4
Clash Between Army, Guatemalan Guerrillas Denied M 4
[EL UNIVERSAL 9 Feb]

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA

Government To Withdraw Ambassador From Nicaragua P 1
[LA REPUBLICA 17 Feb]
Deadline Set for Contadora Action on Urbina Lara P 1
Protests Lodged With Nicaragua Over Attacks P 2
Gutierrez Denies Kidnapped Nicaraguans in Country P 2
Piza Denies Investigation Into Alleged Spy Network P 3
Jamaican Official, Gutierrez Discuss Cooperation P 3

EL SALVADOR

Government Protests Statements by Senator Helms P 4
[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 23 Feb]
Two U.S.-Made Army Helicopters Crash Near Capital P 4
U.S. Adviser on Board P 4
Cadet Killed in Second Crash P 5
Guerrillas Sabotage Transportation, Power P 5
Army on State of Alert P 5
[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 22 Feb]
Police Bus Attacked P 6
[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 21 Feb]
Traffic in East Halted P 6
San Vicente Without Power P 7
Government Invites Observers To View Elections P 8
Vides Casanova Urges Army To Defend Elections P 9
[EL DIARIO DE HOY 21 Feb]
Rights Committee Denounces Prison Incident P 9
Venceremos on Transport Ban, Helicopter Crash P 10

GUATEMALA

Government, Tribunal Set Elections for 27 Oct P 10
New FUR To Participate P 10
Mejia Leaves for Uruguayan Inauguration P 11
Lobos Denies Coup Possible During Mejia's Absence P 11

HONDURAS

Presidency Secretary Admits Contras' Presence P 12
Communique Rejects Alleged Salvadoran Attack P 13

NICARAGUA

Ortega on Funds for Contras, Reagan Statements P 13
Further Response to Reagan Press Conference Remarks P 18
Embassy Refutes Statements P 18
Party Leaders Comment P 19
INE Announces Measures for Fuel Supply Problem P 19
[BARRICADA 21 Feb]
FDN Leader on Defeating Sandinist Regime P 20
[San Jose LA NACION 16 Feb]

CUBA

Castro Attends Signing of French-Cuban Accord Q 1
Havana Says 'Big Pine III' Manuevers Smoke Screen Q 1
1985 Cooperation Plan Signed by UNEAC, USSR Q 2
GDR's Deputy Chairman Schuerer Arrives for Visit Q 2
Friendship Institute Notes Guyana's Anniversary Q 2
1979 Algerian Cooperation Agreement Ratified Q 2
Debt Renegotiation Accord Reached With Japan Q 3
Cuban Delegate Urges Detente at Geneva Meeting Q 3
Raul Castro Congratulates Defense Council Q 3
Domenech Inaugurates Mini-Hydroelectric Unit Q 3
14 Units Ready for Installation Q 3
National Bank President Receives Banking Official Q 4
Joint FAR-Basic Industry Accords Under Study Q 4
Increase in Women Entering Work Force Reported Q 4
Women Inducted Into Anti-Aircraft Artillery Group Q 4
Fishing Fleet Attempts To Save Foreign Currency Q 5
Contest for Amateur Radio Operators Announced Q 5
Organizational Deficiencies Stop Trucks Q 5
Report on Matanzas Province Deep-Well Drilling Q 5

CARIBBEAN

GRENADA

Blaize Departs for Summit Meeting With Mulroney S 1
Country To Join Regional Security System S 1

JAMAICA

Prime Minister Confirms New Agreement With IMF S 2

GUYANA

Burnham Addresses Rally, Charges Subversion T 1

ALFONSIN TO DISCUSS BEAGLE AGREEMENT WITH BLOCS

PY221530 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2200 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 21 Feb (NA) -- It was learned today from Peronist congressional sources that President Raul Alfonsin has extended an invitation to the presidents of all Senate blocs for a dinner to be given at the Olivos presidential residence next week to discuss the agreement with Chile over the Beagle Channel. The invitation was extended by Vice President Victor Martinez to the presidents of the various blocs at the meeting of the Senate Commission for Congressional Work held yesterday, but the source stated that Oraldo Britos, head of the Justicialist sector, had already announced that he would not be able to participate in the dinner.

The invitation was extended after the Peronists stated that the Beagle issue must be studied in depth "and with more time, given the charges of the Chilean logistic support to Great Britain during the Malvinas war," according to remarks reportedly made by Britos at the meeting. Martinez reportedly revealed there that the president wanted the agreement with Chile discussed before his departure for the United States on 17 March, and so he extended the dinner invitation in the name of the president.

DRAFT BILL CALLS FOR CONFISCATION OF UK ASSETS

PY220228 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0055 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Feb (DYN) -- A group of national Justicialist Party [PJ] deputies today submitted a draft law calling for the confiscation of all assets in Argentina that belong to Great Britain and Northern Ireland, including all assets of individuals and institutions with legal status that have British nationality. The PJ deputies' initiative, which was released during a press conference, contains nine articles and provides for the confiscation to remain in force while the circumstances that caused the state of war between Argentina and Great Britain and Northern Ireland continue. The draft is signed by, among others, Norberto Imbelloni, Hector Basualdo, Alberto Brito Lima, Osvaldo Ruis, and Luis Sobrino Aranda, and it also states that the Argentine Government "must consider as canceled the payment of overdue and upcoming interest payments and it must also suspend the amortization of capital" that have originated in the debts that have been contracted by the state and state and public enterprises. In addition, the draft establishes that the benefits and/or [word indistinct] derived from the public administration of the confiscated assets will be used for the following purposes: one-third for the National Food Plan (PAN), one-third for medical attention to the former Malvinas combatants, and the rest for the resupply and functioning of the Armed Forces.

UCR DEPUTIES ON FALKLANDS, BEAGLE TREATY

British Decision Condemned

PY221822 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2350 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Feb (NA) -- Radical Civic Union [UCR] Deputy Carlos Becerra today condemned the decision of the British Government to virtually freeze the negotiating channels over the Malvinas and, linking that attitude with the Beagle dispute, stated that "not to approve the peace and friendship treaty with Chile would be like playing on the British side."

Becerra, who is the vice president of the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Relations Committee, stated that "the hardening of the British position only serves the interests of those who want to maintain a status of dependence and open conflict in the extreme south, because the delay in the approval of the Beagle treaty forces Argentina to consider the possibility of conflicts on other fronts."

The lawmaker, who represents the Cordoba UCR, stated that the announcement made by Margaret Thatcher's government that Great Britain will maintain the exclusion zone around the islands, even though Argentina formally declares a cease-fire, "confirms the fact that London will strengthen its military buildup in the region and, at a time when the agreement with Chile is in the Senate, strengthens the need for eliminating all possibility of conflict with our trans-Andean brothers."

"The British military buildup is the greatest enemy of our sovereignty and, therefore, the position of those who want to reject the agreement with Chile does not favor Argentina," Becerra added. He stressed that "not to approve the peace and friendship treaty with Chile would be like playing on the British side."

In statements to NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS, Becerra criticized the decision of the Peronist senators to delay the debate over any political responsibility or to defend our sovereignty, saying that it actually attacks our sovereignty and places it in jeopardy, since any type of conflict with Chile must be dispelled, in view of the British offensive.

Referring to the announcement made by the conservative British Government not to continue the negotiations with Argentina over the Malvinas, Becerra stated that "that removes all possibilities that the talks started in Bern, Switzerland, (mid-1984) be continued and undermines the talks that lawmakers from the two countries have held at the World Interparliamentary Conference. "After the negative response she received from the British Parliament in the wake of the sinking of the cruiser Belgrano, it seems that Prime Minister Thatcher felt that it was necessary to further harden her stance toward Argentina, an attitude that is at odds with diplomatic tradition but characteristic of the colonialist and belligerent attitude of the UK Government toward Latin America," Becerra added.

Becerra said that the speech delivered by Thatcher in Washington, in which she proclaimed her "commitment to U.S. defense strategy, only justifies Latin American fears that the NATO countries are prepared to meddle in the domestic affairs of those states where NATO interests are not guaranteed."

Given the British position, Becerra proposed that Argentina resume negotiations within the framework of the UN Decolonization Committee, since "the most feasible solution in sight, owing to its political weight, is to achieve the recognition of our sovereignty by the international community."

"In view of British stubbornness, there is no point in discussing various options, such as a lease, to find intermediate solutions which, in the long run, might lead to the recognition of our sovereignty," Becerra noted. Becerra made it clear that "one must distinguish between the government and a large portion of the opposition which does not share the militaristic orthodoxy of the prime minister, an orthodoxy characteristic of those who want to lead the planet into a nuclear holocaust."

"Large sectors in the British Parliament believe that Thatcher wants to lead them into a holocaust," the lawmaker stressed, voicing his confidence that "a change in the power balance in the Parliament will contribute to easing the conflict over the Malvinas." Nonetheless, Becerra stressed that "for the time being, the reality we are facing is that Margaret Thatcher has admitted for the first time that there is a military buildup in the South Atlantic to guarantee the NATO interests in the region, and this permits us to state that the South Atlantic is already a theater of nuclear operations for NATO."

"That attitude on the part of the British Government forces us to clarify the Argentine position and define our theories of conflict in order to clear up all doubts on the value of peace with Chile."

Peronists Said To Serve UK

PY221535 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0141 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 21 Feb (TELAMO -- Cesar Jaroslavsky, head of the bloc of Radical deputies, stated today that Justicialist senators are unknowingly at the service of the British Government because of the rejection voiced by the Justicialist Senate bloc regarding the peace and friendship treaty with Chile over the Beagle Channel.

In remarks to reporters accredited to Congress, Jaroslavsky stated that Mrs Peron's resignation from the Justicialist Party presidency is a gesture to force a reaction among her fellow party members who are engulfed in a crisis of unforessable consequences, with two leaders disputing the presidency of the movement. He added that Mrs Peron's irrevocable resignation is an ploy she learned from Peron, because if she puts her resignation at the party's disposal, she cannot say that it is irrevocable, and the party will probably reject it, which is her objective.

Referring to the Justicialist Party in relation to the approval of the border treaty by the Senate, Jaroslavsky stated that the matter is much more serious, because he links it with the knowledge he has about the activity of a certain Middle East diplomat who is serving British interests and who has not sufficiently disguised his activities to promote the rejection of the treaty. He went on to say that these presumptions are serious enough to be reported to the foreign minister tonight or tomorrow and for the matter to be studied at the appropriate level.

Saudi Diplomat Reportedly Involved

PY230140 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2240 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Feb (NA) -- Deputy Cesar Jaroslavsky of the Radical Party today held a long telephone conversation with Foreign Minister Dante Caputo to convey his concern over "the unusual activity of a diplomat from the Middle East" in support of an alleged British campaign to obstruct the ratification of the agreement with Chile. Sources in the Foreign Ministry minimized Jaroslavaky's accusation and said that he should be more explicit and present evidence of the accusation. Although Jaroslavsky did not explicity mention the name of the diplomat, press reports indicated that he referred to the Saudi Arabian ambassador, Fu'ad Ahmad al-Nazir. The source indicated that if there is a concrete accusation, the foreign diplomat would be summoned to the Foreign Ministry. Jaroslavsky so far has not made a concrete accusation or presented any evidence. The deputy also told the press yesterday that the "obstructionist" attitude of Peronism in the Senate is apparently related "to references I received about the unusual activity of a Middle East diplomat in our country who seems to act as a British lobbyist in Argentina."

STRATEGY TO RECOVER FALKLANDS DISCLOSED

PY230045 Buenos Aires AMBITO FINANCIERO in Spanish 8 Feb 85 p 20

[By Gustavo Faler Lopez]

Text] The fact that some Argentine political leaders are not on top of the news has made Argentina reveal, very early in the game, one of its most interesting cards in negotiating with the British for the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands.

It is not actually known if the information revealed by Senators Antonio Berhongaray and Adolfo Gass of the Radical Party on the possibility of offering the British a lease for the islands in exchange for the recognition of Argentine sovereignty was a trial balloon to study the reaction on the Argentine domestic front or if it was a noncoded "open" message, a term used in the Foreign Ministry, for the people in London, who now clearly see the beginning of negotiations on real bases.

Eliminating the theory of the trial balloon, because a displeased Dante Caputo did not want to elaborate on the information, the idea of a lease has led observers to puzzle over the riddle and find other interesting elements of the future negotiations. The first one that comes to mind refers to the declarations made by high-ranking officials of the San Martin Palace that in 1985 Argentine diplomats are basically going to work on the British domestic front. In other words, this menas that the government may begin a campaign to wear down Margaret Thatcher's inflexible position on negotiating the sovereignty of the islands. For example, this is the direction reportedly taken by some officials who see clearly the beginning of an intense Argentine campaign in the most influential London newspapers with the support and advice of an important advertising agency.

In conjunction with this public campaign, an important second element would come into play. Argentina, through a group of businessmen interested in reestablishing normal relations between Buenos Aires and London, would direct its center of attention to British leaders. To accomplish this, a Center for South Atlantic Studies, similar to an institution already operating in London, is being established. The most visible leaders of this institution reportedly are Arnaldo Musich and Carlos Conrado Helbling. The most important task of this private organization will reportedly be to contact the leaders of the two countries through seminars, cultural occasions, and sporting events. One of the sponsors of this organization recently said in private that "if the United States and China began their rapprochement on a ping pong table, I cannot see why Argentina and the United Kingdom cannot begin with a rugby game."

A rumor which has been circulating in the last few weeks has been confirmed through private conversations with diplomats accredited in Buenos Aires. If those rumors are true, Washington is reportedly going to begin in the next few months actions of good offices to get the two sides to a negotiating table. This by no means would be a mediation, a word the Americans prefer to not even hear, but it is obvious that if the United States were to begin a diplomatic action in this regard the initiative could not fail. The best informed diplomats are willing to give details of such plans and even the names of the people in charge of assembling the delicate mechanism, which will reportedly be confirmed in Washington during the upcoming meetings between Presidents Alfonsin and Reagan. However, as a high-ranking official said yesterday "it would be useless to provide details now, no matter how many more newspapers would be sold." Prudence is not solely a diplomatic virtue.

The fourth element on which Argentine experts are reportedly working would be the preparation of a statute of guarantees for the inhabitants of the islands. The idea would be to grant the islanders all types of advantages, and to officially convey this through the mission in the United Nations. Apparently this issue is reportedly being delayed by irrelevant discussions among officials. For example, the preparation of the document was halted when a study was made on the possibility of granting the right to divorce because the Argentine legislation does not provide it.

Putting aside all the elements described, the Foreign Ministry, or part of it, believes that Argentina must not give up its right to claim the islands in the most important international organization. However, many officials are reticent to take a stand during the upcoming sessions of the UN General Assembly because in order to obtain more than the 89 votes obtained last year, the next resolution must be even more contemplative, and weaker regarding demands.

In conclusion, the unmovable attitude of Margaret Thatcher, "a bad person" according to a high-ranking official, continues to prevail over all these elements. Despite Mrs Thatcher's position, the Argentine Government has decided to maintain the claims over the islands. Although a great deal is at stake with this claim because it is already obvious that it will be the main axle of Argentina foreign policy. But if progress results, the risk of assuming substantial commitments with a single objective in mind cannot be denied.

POSITION ON NICARAGUA CONFIRMED TO U.S. ENVOY

PY222305 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 22 Feb (NA) -- Aldo Tessio, the presidential adviser for peace and disarmament, ratified to U.S. Ambassador Frank Ortiz that the Argentine Government is not in agreement with any type of "direct action" that would mean an interference in the affairs of Nicaragua. This was revealed to NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS by adviser Tessio, who confirmed that he had met with the U.S. diplomat last week and that he had reiterated the Argentine Government's adhesion to the principle of non-intervention and self-determination of peoples.

On other topics, the official stressed that there is total agreement within the government regarding the implementation of the foreign policy and he rejected the existence of personal disagreements with Foreign Minister Dante Caputo.

Tessio stressed that during a protocol meeting with Ortiz, a few days before the ambassador left for Washington, "they had discussed ideas concerning topics that interest Buenos Aires and Washington" in view of the upcoming meeting between Presidents Raul Alfonsin and Ronald Reagan in March in the United States. "I reiterated to Ambassador Ortiz," he emphasized, "the vocation of our Radical government of imposing firm respect for the principal of nonintervention and self-determination of peoples."

"President Alfonsin is very firm on this position," Tessio stressed, referring to the rumors that indicated a few days ago that Washington will ask Buenos Aires to review its position regarding the Managua government.

FUTURE AMBASSADOR TO USSR DISCUSSES MISSION

PY222200 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1404 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] San Juan, 22 Feb (TELAM) -- Federico Bravo is currently awaiting the formal decree of the national executive branch and the appropriate acceptance from Moscow to take up his duties as Argentine ambassador in the Soviet Union. The diplomat, who already has the Senate's approval, has disclosed a few details concerning his impending activities in the USSR. Bravo announced that the top priority task of his mission would be to promote large-scale mining in Argentina through transfer of technology and supply of USSR equipment and explained that the latter is interested in purchasing the products thus exploited. The diplomat stated that although he will deal with other important issues, such as culture, intellectual affairs, and sports, as well as other human aspects that have to do with the relations between two civilized nations, his main concern will be large-scale mining exploitation. He also revealed that before he departs for the Soviet Union he will contact national officials to be briefed on all fields of action.

He insisted that mining is one of the main aspects to be given consideration as part of his new duties. In San Juan he has already spoken with engineer Barrera (Argentine mining secretary) who has asked for two days to draft up a concrete plan.

Bravo added: There are certain mining resources in which the Soviets are extremely interested. I would say that they are interested on two counts. On one hand they want to export technology and machinery for large-scale mining and on the other they want to purchase whatever is produced. `In this regard he revealed that prospects are excellent for the Rincon Blanco bituminous deposits, saying that the Soviets are mainly interested in extracting fuel and by-products for the petrochemical industry. They have the machinery to mine it and process it and this, coupled with the current worldwide energy shortage [as received] makes the replacement of oil by bituminous schist economically profitable.

ECONOMY MINISTRY REORGANIZED, NEW APPOINTMENTS

PY230225 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0118 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 21 Feb (NA) -- The government today appointed Adolfo Canitrot as economic coordination secretary and presidential adviser Julio Mendez as domestic commerce secretary. The government also announced the reorganization of the Economy Ministry. The appointed officials will assume their posts at 1800 tomorrow.

The Economy Ministry's new organization chart replaces the Economy Under Secretariat with the new Under Secretariat for Technical and Administrative Coordination, which is a direct arm of the ministry. The organization chart also provides for an Economic Coordination Secretariat with an Under Secretariat for Economic Policy and another for Institutional Relations. The remaining state secretariats and under secretariats remain unchanged.

Julio Mendez will replace Alfredo Concepcion, new president of the Central Bank of the Argentine Republic, while Ricardo Ruben Carciofi will replace Adalberto Rodriguez Giavarini who, so far, is the only member of Bernardo Grinspun's team that has been officially dismissed. Most of the officials, whose appointment was disclosed today, were already working in the Planning Secretariat under Minister Sourrouille himself. None of the decrees issued today has mentioned the much-awaited ratification in their post of the various secretaries who worked with Grinspun, especially that of Foreign Commerce Secretary Ricardo Campero, Finance Secretary Norberto Bertaina, Cooperative Action Secretary Hector Polino, and Agriculture and Livestock Secretary Lucio Reca.

Juan Carlos Torre has been appointed to the Institutional Relations Under Secretariat. Jose Luis Machina has been appointed to the Economic Policy Under Secretariat and Jorge Gandara to the Technical and Administrative Coordination Under Secretariat. Mendez is the current presidential adviser for commercial matters and was manager of the Argentine Renault automobile enterprise. Torre is an engineer from Bahia Blanca and until now held the post as long-term planning under secretary of the Planning Secretariat. Carciofi has a degree in economics and until his new appointment he was under secretary for programming and coordination with the public sector of the Planning Secretariat. Machinea also has a degree in economics and held the post as under secretary for programming of development in the Planning Secretariat. Canitrot, who was under secretary general of the Planning Secretariat, is an experienced economist who has held public posts on previous occasions, especially with Sourrouille, during the so-called "Argentine Revolution." Gandara is an industrial engineer, the only one of the aforementioned who held no post in the Planning Secretariat.

PLANE TRANSPORTING COCAINE CRASHES IN PARAGUAY

PY251115 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 23 Feb 85 p 6

[Excerpts] Campo Grande - Londrina -- A Beat plane, registration No PT-ISE, owned by businessman Gilberto Yannes, crashed late in the afternoon on 20 February in the area of Capitan Bado, Paraguay, with 600 kg cocaine aboard. The crash killed the businessman, pilot Reiner dos Reis Santos, and an unidentified Bolivian citizen.

According to Mato Grosso do Sul Federal Police sources, the plane took off at 0930 on 19 February from the Londrina (Parana State) carrying between four and six 200-liter drums of acetone, which were being taken to Paraguay. This acetone had been picked up by the same plane in Sao Paulo between 10 and 15 February.

Officials of the Mato Grosso do Sul air base have confirmed that the plane indeed crashed. According to them the crew of the plane had stated in Londrina that they were going to Arapongas (Parana State), but landed at a clandestine strip near Ponta Pora from where they continued to Paraguay.

The Federal Police have been investigating the activities of businessman Gilberto Yannes for over a year now. The fast growth of his enterprises had drawn suspicion. According to a source the businessman frequently carried acetone to cocaine factories in Paraguay and returned with loads of cocaine.

PARAGUAYAN CAUGHT WITH 330 GRAMS OF HEROIN

PY250228 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Feb 85 p 19

[Excerpts] Chen Quan, 54, who has been arrested by the Drug Investigation Division of the Criminal Investigations Department (DEIC) for possessing 330 grams of pure heroin, worth 150 million cruzeiros, yesterday confessed that he is involved with the Chinese "Mafia," which operates on the Taiwan-Paraguay-Brazil run. He also said that he has ties with the Japanese "Yakusa" group, which is responsible for several murders in Japan.

It is very likely Chen Quan will be expelled from Brazil after serving his term, because he is a naturalized Paraguayan citizen who, if expelled now, could return to Paraguay and continue drug trafficking. He commands large financial resources: In a phone call made from the Drug Investigation Division office to Taiwan, Chen Quan asked for the remittance of all the money he will need to pay the two lawyers he has hired for his defense.

Chen Quan is being interrogated at the DEIC because both the civil state police and federal police want to learn all the people who are involved in heroin trafficking. He will not recover his freedom soon, because if his lawyers manage to obtain a ruling for his release, the justice minister will immediately order his administrative detention.

DEFENSE MINISTER SEES DECLINE IN TERRORISM

PY232015 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 16 Feb 85 p C 3

[Text] Defense Minister Vice Admiral Patricio Carvajal has stated that terrorist activities have declined during the summer, but noted that subversive organizations go through periods of preparation and action; therefore, government officials are adopting permanent measures designed to protect the people. Admiral Carvajal made these remarks to newsmen yesterday morning at his office in the Defense Ministry.

Asked about terrorist activities this summer, Carvajal said that they have in fact declined during the past few months, but made it clear that this fact is in no way misleading the government. Carvajal said: "We know they are making preparations. There are cycles, periods of preparation, and periods of action. Therefore, we are taking every necessary step to ensure order and security for all citizens."

After noting that it is up to Minister Secretary General of Government Francisco Javier Cuadra to comment on terrorist activities, Carvajal agreed to briefly discuss the subject. Asked whether terrorist activities could be intensified beginning in March, Carvajal declined to answer, saying that "this is a very specific question which should be addressed to the minister secretary general of government."

OFFICIAL DENIES ASSISTANCE TO UK OVER FALKLANDS

PY221545 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Whenever there is progress in the achievement of peace and detente in our continent, forces seeking to make it fail crop up. This statement was made by Foreign Bilateral Policy Director Jose Manuel Ovalle when he was questioned on a report of a statement by Argentine Peronist Deputy Ruben Cardozo that Chile provided assistance to Great Britain during the Malvinas war.

[Begin Ovalle recording -- broadcast in progress] ...What the president mentioned, the Chilean Government has repeatedly told us on several previous occasions. Chile recognizes the rights that Argentina has over the Malvinas. Based on a longstanding diplomatic tradition of nonintervention in domestic affairs and on principles of international law, during the Malvinas conflict Chile maintained a strict neutrality. However, it is a fact that is highly suspicious for [words indistinct] be a new hurdle in the achievement of an ever greater integration and detente in the American continent, there are forces which are interested in (?destroying it). [end recording]

Ovalle added that, at any rate, in view of that report, it is necessary to reiterate what the Chilean Government has emphatically stated on previous occasions regarding such lies.

UK AREA EXPERT TO MEET WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

PY230130 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Ambassador William Shelby, under secretary of state for Latin American Affairs of the British Foreign Office, is expected in Santiago on 26 February. This information was released by Jose Manuel Ovalle, director for bilateral policies of the Foreign Ministry. Ovalle also reported that audiences with the interior, foreign and finance ministers are being set up for the British official.

SURINAME'S BOUTERSE PAYS 2-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT

PA220351 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0152 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Bogota, 21 Feb (REUTER) -- In an unusual trip abroad, Desire Bouterse, Surinamese leftist military leader, met today with Colombian President Belisario Betancur. According to diplomats, the trip is an effort to improve Bouterse's international image. Bouterse, who arrived here for a 2-day visit, also met with Colombian Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo and will meet later with Finance Minister Roberto Junguito and Central Bank officials. Surinamese Government officials have said that Colombia has agreed to give their country economic assistance, but they did not cite any figures.

Bouterse, who seized power 5 years ago through a coup in the former Netherlands colony, said: "We form part of the Latin American community and advocate integration in Latin America." He added that Suriname "will continue to support the Contadora Group's work and its untiring efforts in all forums and at every opportunity."

Betancur Hosts Luncheon

PA221355 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Bogota -- Colombian President Belisario Betancur today stated that the Contadora Group's philosophy is to have the Central American countries autonomously achieve peace in the region, without pressure from the great powers. This philosophy, he added, leads us to patiently from day to day search for the solutions that will resolve conflicts through understanding and persuasion. The president made this and other statements during a luncheon for Colonel Desire Bouterse, the Surinamese head of government who is on an official visit to Colombia.

Betancur also referred to bilateral relations, stating that Colombia will grant technical assistance to Suriname and increase trade. He added that on this occasion both nations will ratify their common goals regarding the preservation of peace, reaffirmation of democracy, and the demand for equality in relations among countries.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

PA231543 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Bogota -- The Colombian and Surinamese Governments have signed an agreement to strengthen friendly, commercial, and financial cooperation ties between the two nations. The agreement, signed by Surinamese National Resources and Energy Minister Erik Tjon Kie Sim and Colombian Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, including the following points:

In the commercial field, the two governments expressed their willingness to strengthen their relations to increase mutual trade and achieve equitable benefits for both parties. To this end, the two nations foreign trade authorities will consider the possibility of increasing their bilateral exchange, particularly exports from Suriname such as aluminum and vegetable oils.

Regarding financial cooperation, the Colombian Government offered credit lines to finance consumer, intermediate [intermedio] and capital goods through the corresponding credit institutions. In addition, Colombia's Bank of the Republic and Suriname's Central Bank will continue to study the possibility of reaching agreements to facilitate the development of bilateral trade.

In order to promote and provide legal status for the technical cooperation between Colombia and Suriname, the two governments will consider the advisability of signing a basic agreement on technical and scientific cooperation to allow, among other things, the development of cooperation plans and projects in areas of common interest through technology transfer, the exchange of information regarding efforts and scientists, and the mutual provision of training facilities at various levels.

The possibility of creating a coffee-processing industry in Suriname will be explored. For this Colombia will provide raw materials and technical assistance and equipment. In addition, consideration will be given to the possibility of supplying Suriname with industrial machinery to process rice, African palm, sugarcane, and fishing products through credit lines by means of the planned exchange.

With the signing of this agreement, the official visit paid to Colombia by Colonel Desire Bouterse, president of the Surinamese Government's political committee, has come to an end.

COLOMBIAN-AMERICAN CENTER DYNAMITED; WATCHMAN DIES

PA221407 Paris AFP in Spanish 1331 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Barranquilla, Colombia, 22 Feb (AFP) -- The police reported today that the night watchman at the Colombian-American Center, which was dynamited by two youths who fled on a motorcycle last night, has died. Luis Felipe Barros, a 48-year-old Colombian worker, was hit by the powerful explosion that also caused damage estimated at over $25,000 at the English teaching center. No guerrilla or antisocial group has yet claimed credit for the attack, the fourth against the Colombian-American Center of this Caribbean port, the police report indicated.

19 People Held

PA241959 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Barranquilla -- The Army 2d Brigade is holding under tight surveillance 19 persons singled out as being responsible for the terrorist attack against the building housing the Colombian-American Center in Barranquilla. Investigators have proceeded amid utmost secrecy, withholding the names of those arrested until all members of the National Liberation Army [ELN] cell that has been staging various terrorist actions are caught. The attack, the fourth against the Colombian-American Center, caused the death of watchman Luis Felipe Barrios, 48, and property losses in excess of 5 million pesos.

GOVERNMENT LIFTS EXPORT BAN ON 198 PRODUCTS

PA222001 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 19 Feb 85 p 8

[Text] The national government, through the Colombian Foreign Trade Council, yesterday decided to lift restrictions on 198 export products. The measure was adopted in compliance with World Bank requirements as a precondition to granting a loan to be used in export production. The decision will permit the export of certain products, particularly in the agricultural and livestock sector, which had been banned in order to guarantee internal supply. The World Bank has granted Colombia a $300-million credit, which will be used to import raw material to be processed in the country and then exported.

Vegetable oil, soybean and cotton seed curd, and hydrocarbon by-products processed through the petrochemical industry are among the products that can now be exported.

At the conclusion of a meeting of the Foreign Trade Council, Colombian Foreign Trade Institute Director Nohora Rey de Marulanda said that the $300-million credit granted by the multilateral organization will be invested totally in a quick process for importing raw materials and semi-processed goods used in manufacturing export products. Colombia had implemented a policy restricting exports, regardless of how profitable the prices on the international market could be for the producers, in order to guarantee supplies for the local market.

DEFENSE MINISTER ON CRIMINALS-GUERRILLAS 'ALLIANCE'

PA231417 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 19 Feb 85 pp 1, 8

[Excerpt] The Armed Forces yesterday reported an alliance between criminals and guerrillas to kidnap merchants, industrialists, and cattle breeders throughout the country, while two new cases were reported in Cauca and Huila Departments.

This statement was made by National Defense Minister General Miguel Francisco Vega Uribe at the end of the National Security Council meeting. He later asked all of the sectors in the community to cooperate with the authorities in eliminating this criminal practice in Colombia.

Vega Uribe said that it is very difficult to establish if these are guerrilla organizations or simply groups of common criminals carrying out these actions, because even the victims themselves cannot ascertain the identities of their kidnappers.

The defense minister insisted that only through the creation of a pact between the authorities and the relatives of the victims to refuse payment of exorbitant ransoms will this crime, which he described as atrocious and inhuman, be controlled.

Meanwhile, two new cases have been reported. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] and the [ELN] forces have kidnapped one cattle breeder and one National Police agent in Cauca and Huila Departments, respectively. An authorized spokesman for the Defense Ministry reported that presumed members of the so-called "Ricardo Franco" front, a dissident wing of the FARC, kidnapped farmer Arturo Silva Sanchez. The incident was reported at the La Maria farm on Dominquillo road, in the municipality of Santander de Quilichao, Cauca. The kidnappers did not initially demand a ransom, authorities said.

The General Directorate of the national police has reported that supposed members of the Castroite ELN last Friday kidnapped policeman Alberto Munar Alvarez. The policeman's kidnapping was reported at the Los Cauchos garrison in the jurisdiction of the municipality of San Agustin, Huila.

BRIEFS

COCA PLANTATION DISCOVERED -- Bogota, 8 Feb (AFP) -- The Colombian police located and confiscated a coca plantation near Pauna, 180 km northeast of Bogota, in the Andean Province of Boyaca. It is estimated that there were at least 500,000 coca plants camouflaged by coffee and plantain trees. The preliminary reports indicate that the leaves were harvested, taken out of the region, and sent to other areas for processing. Two weeks ago 10 peasants, who refused to cooperate in the coca cultivation, were murdered. Five men have been charged with their deaths and arrested. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1351 GMT 8 Feb 85 PA]

NICARAGUAN DELEGATION PREPARES FOR ORTEGA'S VISIT

PY222055 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0829 GMT 22 Feb 85

[By Alberto Pepe Leira]

[Text] Montevideo, 22 Feb (EFE) -- The disappearance of the military regime in Uruguay has allowed diplomatic relations with Nicaragua to start thawing rapidly. A delegation of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) arrived in Montevideo to arrange the visit of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra, who will attend the presidential inauguration of Julio Maria Sanguinetti on 1 March. An attempt to intensify the increased diplomatic and commercial relations between the two countries is also being made during the various meetings with politicians of all leanings. The Nicaraguan delegation is headed by Raul Guerra, of the Nicaraguan Government's Department for International Relations.

Diplomatic relations between Nicaragua and Uruguay had been frozen since the victory of the Sandinist revolution in 1979. Although the relations had never been broken, Uruguay had never appointed an ambassador to Managua. The delegation, which is in Montevideo, is the first official Nicaraguan delegation to visit Uruguay since Anastasio Somoza was overthrown.

The Nicaraguan visitors were received by leaders of the Colorado and Blanco Parties, and of the leftist coalition, Broad Front. Various labor union organizations and organizations for the defense of human rights have welcomed the delegation headed by Guerra and are preparing a reception ceremony during Ortega's visit, which they term as historic. Placards have been posted on the streets of Montevideo welcoming Ortega and praising Nicaragua's victory. The presence of a Sandinist delegation in Montevideo reciprocates a visit made to Nicaragua by Roberto Asiain, Colorado Party secretary for international affairs; Juan Raul Ferreira, Blanco Party secretary for international affairs; and by the Broad Front leader, former General Liber Seregni. According to the politicians who received the delegation, the official Nicaraguan delegation that will arrive on 1 March addition to President Ortega, will be made up of Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, and Manuel Espinoza, chief of the government's intelligence department. In order to welcome Ortega, the main Uruguayan labor confederation, the Interunion Workers Plenum, has organized a mass demonstration and the Uruguayan Committee of Solidarity with Nicaragua has also organized a public display. The university students have also invited Ortega to visit the Greater University of Montevideo, which has just democratically elected its officials after almost 12 years of intervention by the military government.

42 PRISONERS FREED UNDER 'EARLY RELEASE' PROGRAM

PY232045 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1545 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Montevideo, 23 Feb (TELAM-EFE) -- Forty-two Uruguayan political prisoners, including two members of the Central Committee of the outlawed Communist Party, were released under an early release program established by the military courts. They are 40 men and 2 women who are members of the National Liberation Movement-Tupamaros, union leaders, and politicians, whose activities had been repressed by the former dictatorship. Communist politicians Leon Lev and Edgar Lanza were eligible for early release under the "half the sentence" provision, that is, after serving half of their sentence with good conduct. Seven prisoners were also released on 16 February, a few days after the two democratic legislative houses (the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies) convened, as part of an agreement between politicians and the military to bring peace to the nation. There are still 315 prisoners in the prisons of "Libertad" (for men) and "Punta Rieles" (for women) awaiting either their early release or approval by the National Congress of a bill, which is now under study, granting a general, unrestricted amnesty.

DE LA MADRID, REAGAN DISCUSS BORDER SITUATION

FL231752 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1620 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid and U.S. President Ronald Reagan held a telephone conversation on U.S. officials' excessive vigilance at the border between the two countries.

Sources from the Mexican presidency said that during their friendly and cordial conversation, the two leaders discussed the excessive U.S. control over the border, which was causing serious problems on the movement of goods, people, and vehicles in both directions.

The Mexican president told his U.S. counterpart that this action was extreme, that it seriously hurt both sides of the border, and that the operation which started last Saturday was not the most appropriate way to fight drug trafficking, which is the object of great efforts by the two countries.

De la Madrid reiterated to Reagan his government's firm support for the anti-drug trafficking campaign and expressed his regrets on the disappearance of U.S. Embassy employee Enrique Camarena Salazar.

He emphasized the efforts the Mexican police are undertaking to determine the whereabouts of Camarena Salazar, and underscored that several Mexican officials had died in the past few days because of the fight against drug trafficking. He also indicated the necessity of the two countries, increasing their cooperation in fighting this crime.

President De la Madrid proposed to the U.S. President that a meeting be held soon between their respective attorney generals to study the situation in every aspect.

Ronald Reagan listened attentively and with interest to the Mexican president and said he would immediately look into these suggestions so that the border situation and traffic could normalize as soon as possible.

Reagan also accepted the proposal to soon hold a meeting between the U.S. and Mexican attorney generals to increase cooperation in the anti-drug trafficking campaign and said that his country is very willing to being relations with Mexico to a high level.

President De la Madrid also suggested to Reagan holding a private meeting this year to review the state of affairs between Mexico and the United States, which, he said, our nation gives the highest priority.

During the telephone conversation, the two presidents also exchanged views on the most urgent problems concerning bilateral relations, and there was much cordiality and friendship in this exchange.

Meanwhile, the Mexican presidency confirmed what Senator Lloyd Bensen had said in Washington on "Operation Interception" ending today.

The Mexican consulates in San Antonio, San Diego, and in other border cities confirmed today that the checking of vehicles and persons had returned to normal, and that at other locations such as the Matamoros-Brownsville border towns, traffic in both directions was almost back to normal. The same situation exists in the border towns of Nuevo Laredo-Laredo, and Mexicali-Calexico.

BELIZEAN PRIME MINISTER CONCLUDES VISIT

Support for Tourism

FL220232 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2310 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Mexico City, 21 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- The prime minister of Belize, Manuel Esquivel, said here today he is pleased with the support the Mexican Government will give his country in organizing the tourist industry. At a press conference held after he had met with the under secretary of operations of the Secretariat of Tourism, Alejandro Mornes Ochos, Esquivel said Belize has priority interest in learning from Mexico's tourism experience in developing and operating the national tourist centers in order to use it as a base for beginning the development of tourism in his country. He said: Belize is just beginning to develop its tourist industry, and I think the Mexican Government's achievements in tourism represent a great step forward, for which reason Belize has requested Mexican counseling in the development of its tourist industry. The prime minister of Belize and the under secretary of operations of the Mexican Secretariat of Tourism announced that following Esquivel's visit to Mexico, Mexico will sign agreements on tourism and the training of tourist industry employees.

The Mexican official formally invited the prime minister of Belize, Manuel Esquivel, to visit such functioning Mexican tourist centers as Cancun, the Mexican Caribbean, Vallarta, Ixtapa, Zihuatanejo, Acapulco, and Loreto Nopolo on the Pacific Ocean so the Belizean authorities can become acquainted with the work being done here in tourism.

Health, Industrial Cooperation

FL221544 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0315 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Mexico City, 21 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico reiterated to Belize Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel here today, on the first day of his visit to Mexico, its cooperation in the health field and industrial sector.

Mexico's Secretary of Health and Public Assistance Guillermo Soberon Acevedo said President Miguel de la Madrid had issued instructions to strengthen mechanisms of cooperation and exchange between the two countries. Soberon Acevedo said they had increased activities geared to fighting preventable diseases through vaccinations, such as those for malaria and dengue fever, which Belize has been doing since last year. The Mexican Social Security Institute will help Belize in the quality control of medicines and will provide information on Mexican laboratories and medicines with the possibility of exporting these to Belize at lower than average international prices.

Mexico's Secretary of Energy, Mines, and Parastatal Industry Francisco Labastida Ochoa agreed with Belize's prime minister on the need to provide information on energy matters to improve the development of that country's industries and to continue to exchange information.

Esquivel Press Conference

FL230214 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2304 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 22 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Manuel Esquivel, prime minister of Belize, has said his country wants broader cooperation with the American community and the Caribbean to achieve greater development and not remain isolated regionally as it has been throughout its history.

He said agreement has been reached with the Mexican Government to combat illegal drug trafficking, principally that of marijuana, and work is proceeding on the patrolling of the border between the two countries.

Manuel Esquivel told Mexican and international media representatives there was no agreement on the purchase of petroleum and that Belize buys exclusively from Venezuela.

With regard to the border problem between Belize and Guatemala and the recognition of Belize's independence, he said that in recent months meetings of the prime ministers [as received] of the two countries had taken place in New York in an attempt to reach an understanding. He said Guatemala wanted access to the sea, especially through Toledo Department, and that preliminary exploratory conversations had been held in preparation for a formal, substantive agreement.

The prime minister of Belize stressed his government's desire to join the OAS. He said that however this will not be possible at present because of the Guatemalan Government's right to a veto. He said the only way Guatemala [as received] can enter the OAS is for the OAS Charter to be changed or for Guatemala to change the position it has maintained up to now.

On Guatemalan Sea Outlet

PA241957 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Belizean Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel said today in Mexico City that his government is willing to consider Guatemala's legitimate need to have access to the Caribbean Sea. Esquivel thus replied to an announcement by Guatemalan Government spokesman Ramon Zelda Carrillo that his country's final achnowledgement of Belize's independence is conditioned on it granting Guatemala access to the Caribbean Sea through Toledo Department. The Belizean prime minister said: We made it clear to the Guatemalans that we are willing to consider their legitimate needs for access to the Caribbean Sea. He made that statement during a press conference this afternoon at the end of a 3-day official visit to Mexico.

He added that recent talks with representatives of Guatemala and Great Britain in New York were preliminary and exploratory in nature. They were aimed at preparing the ground for a firmer dialogue. However, he said that a date has not yet been set for another meeting. Esquivel voiced his optimism about an eventual solution to the conflict with Guatemala, first because Guatemala is heading toward democracy, and second because the new government might have a new, fresh outlook on relations.

Departs for Dominican Republic

FL230036 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2325 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- This afternoon, after an official 2-day visit to Mexico, the prime minister of Belize, Manuel Esquivel, left for Santo Domingo to continue his working trip to Latin American and part of the Caribbean. At 1610 local time, Esquivel arrived at the presidential hangar of Mexico City International Airport, where the Mexican secretaries of foreign relations and government, Bernardo Sepulveda and Manuel Bartlett Diaz, respectively, took leave of him in the name of the Mexican people and government. Before he boarded the plane, he received the customary honors. The national anthems of the two nations were played and 19 salvos of artillery were fired.

PRICES OF CRUDE TO BE MAINTAINED IN MARCH

FL221426 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0048 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Mexico City, 21 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Export prices for Mexico's crude petroleum in March will be same as they were in February, PEMEX reported today at the end of a regular meeting of the trade committee. At the petroleum foreign trade committee meeting on 20 February, it was decided that the price of Isthmus type crude would be $27.75 per barrel and $25.50 for Maya type crude. It was recommended that the export level of crude petroleum for 1985 be the same as in 1984, near 1.5 million barrels a day, a volume which will gradually be reached according to market conditions.

It was also reiterated that Mexico is not interested in increasing its participation in the world petroleum market this year, whereby it is assuming a responsibility before the necessity of all petroleum producers to contribute to the stability of the market.

ENERGY SECRETARY ON COSTA RICAN PETROLEUM DEBT

FL221614 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0117 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 21 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico's Secretary of Energy, Mines, and State Industry Francisco Labastida Ochoa said today that payments for PEMEX foreign projects will be collected according to Mexico's economic requirements.

On being interviewed after the International Forum on Productivity ended, Labastida Ochoa said the Costa Rican Government currently owes the Mexican Government $15 million for surveying, exploring, and drilling projects for petroleum wells. Labastida Ochoa said the matter of payments also includes the supply of petroleum, and added that in accord with Mexican Government policies, prepayment for crude orders will be taken at the start of a contract with any nation.

CLASH BETWEEN ARMY, GUATEMALAN GUERRILLAS DENIED

PA220013 Mexico City EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 9 Feb 85 p 7

[Excerpts] Comitan, Chiapas, 8 Feb -- Absalon Castellanos Dominguez, governor of Chiapas State, denied that there has been a clash between the Mexican Army and Guatemalan guerrillas. This "has been fully confirmed." Meanwhile, congressmen confirmed that the alleged clash was nothing but a false alarm.

Senator Patrocinio Gonzalez Garrido, president of the Senate's Southeast Commission, said that there was a clash, but it was between Guatemalans and took place 500 meters from the Mexican border in a place called Santa Cruz.

Gonzalez said that Mexicans were not involved in clashes with Guatemalan guerrillas or the military, and much less the Army. What is happening, he said, is that there are sectors trying to make the world believe that this is a troubled, insecure zone.

He discarded the notion that Mexican leftist parties are conducting activities among the refugees and said that this would not be allowed because apart from being an irresponsible attitude, it would create serious international problems inasmuch as the United Nations is giving aid to the Guatemalan refugees in our country.

COSTA RICA

GOVERNMENT TO WITHDRAW AMBASSADOR FROM NICARAGUA

PA242338 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 17 Feb 85 p 3

[Text] The Costa Rican Government will withdraw its ambassador in Managua, Jesus Fernandez, "as a protest against the Nicaraguan Government's recent aggressions."

Official sources explained to LA REPUBLICA that "the measure will be announced by President Monge in the next few days, because high-level Nicaraguan Government officials, including Vice President Sergio Ramirez, Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, and Deputy Foreign Ministers Jose Leon Talavera and Tinoco have issued charges against Costa Rica which the government considers slanderous."

During a tour through Europe, Ramirez Mercado said that Costa Rica is at the United States' beck and call, that it is a U.S. puppet, and that it takes orders from Washington.

D'Escoto issued a series of offensive statements against Costa Rica, and said that "all human rights are violated here."

Tinoco issued a statement in Panama City denouncing Costa Rica when he learned that the Contadora Group meeting had been canceled. He siad that his country "has 100 charges of violations of the right to asylum by Costa Rica for each that Costa Rica presents against Nicaragua."

Offensive statements against Costa Rica have also been printed by the Managua newspapers EL NUEVO DIARIO and BARRICADA.

Costa Rica will also demand that the Nicaraguan Embassy in Costa Rica, which currently has 34 members, reduce its personnel to a maximum of 8 persons.

DEADLINE SET FOR CONTADORA ACTION ON URBINA LARA

PA231358 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] The Costa Rican Government has set a deadline for the Contadora Group to take effective action in the case of Nicaraguan asylum seeker Manuel Urbina Lara. This statement was made by Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez, who said he has not received any information on this subject since the Contadora Group deputy foreign ministers were asked to reactivate their mediation efforts.

He said that in the next few weeks there will be some difficulties because there will be presidential inaugurations in Uruguay and Brazil, which several of the area's foreign ministers will attend.

The minister said that if the Contadora Group has taken no action on the Urbina Lara case by mid-March, the Costa Rican Government will again take the matter to the OAS Permanent Council.

Minister Gutierrez, who will be going to Brazil next week, said: If by the time I return from Brazil, the Contadora Group has taken no action, I will study the situation and we will again take the case to the OAS. Gutierrez pointed out that the OAS Permanent Council asked the Contadora Group to seek a solution to the conflict and Contadora has to inform the OAS about what it has done.

Regarding rumors that Urbina Lara has not been turned over to Costa Rica because he is dead, Minister Gutierrez said that he ordered Costa Rican Ambassador to Nicaragua Jesus Fernandez to ask the International Red Cross to visit Urbina Lara. The information that has been provided is that members of the International Red Cross visited Urbina Lara, that he is in good health, and that the bullet wound in one of his legs has healed. Nothing else has been reported on Urbina Lara's health since that information was made available. Next week the International Red Cross will be asked to visit him again.

If no action is taken to resolved the conflict between Costa Rica and Nicaragua over aslyum seeker Urbina Lara, Costa Rica will again ask the OAS Permanent Council to form an investigating commission. This would represent either the formation of a specific commission to find a solution at the highest level or the sending of the case to the OAS Peaceful Solutions Commission.

The foreign minister said that Costa Rica will not attend any meeting promoted by the Contadora Group until the Urbina Lara case is resolved. Minister Gutierrez said that if the Catholic bishops currently meeting in Tegucigalpa offer to mediate in the conflict between Costa Rica and Nicaragua over the Urbina Lara case, the Costa Rican Government would have no objection. The foreign minister cautioned, however, that he is afraid the Nicaraguan Government would not accept such mediation. He concluded by stating: If they accept that mediation, we would have no objection.

PROTESTS LODGED WITH NICARAGUA OVER ATTACKS

PA221351 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] The Costa Rican Government has lodged a new protest with the regime in Managua over a Sandinist People's Army [EPS] attack on Costa Rican civil guardsmen on 10 February in the area of Los Jocotes. The protest also mentions an attack against a Civil Guard patrol in the region of Guatomaste on 11 February, when rifle shots were fired at them. The civil guardsmen returned the fire. In its protest note Costa Rica warned that these openly hostile actions must cease immediately as, along with other illicit actions, they have brought bilateral relations to a very tense point.

In another Costa Rican Foreign Ministry note to the Sandinist regime, in connection with the charge that the border posts in Penas Blancas and El Naranjo had been attacked, the Costa Rican Government asserts that the rebel groups came from Nicaraguan territory. It also charges that the EPS troops that participated in the skirmish on 13 February attacked for no reason a Costa Rican reconnaissance patrol with rifles, tracer bullets, and mortars. The Costa Rican patrol had been watching the clash from the post at Conventillos, in Costa Rica. According to the report prepared by the Public Security Ministry, the civil guardsmen repelled the 30-minute attack. [Words indistinct] contain the Nicaraguan conflict the Costa Rican Government urges the Sandinist regime to exert effective control over its territory.

GUTIERREZ DENIES KIDNAPPED NICARAGUANS IN COUNTRY

PA230403 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has informed the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry that the five Nicaraguan citizens the Managua regime claims were kidnapped by groups opposed to the Sandinist government are not in Costa Rican territory. The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry had sent a telegram asking the Costa Rican Government to locate Gustavo Sequeira Pena, Hernaldo Benito Arias Reyes, Javier Herrera Calderon, Ileana Corenado Falcon, and Oscar Pavon Herrera.

According to a report issued by the Public Security Ministry, these people are not in Costa Rican territory, the foreign minister stated. He noted that this is the latest case of kidnapped people who later reappear in Nicaraguan territory which they never left.

Several important Nicaraguan officials have admitted that part of Nicaragua's territory is under the control of opposition forces, especially Zelaya Department, where Indian groups are in control. Taking this into consideration, it is doubtful that people captured by these groups could have been brought to Costa Rica in light of the great distance involved and the poor roads in Nicaragua's Atlantic region. The Costa Rican Government urges the Nicaraguan regime to exert control over its own territory and suggests that Managua should avoid sending civilian officials to war zones like Zelaya where it is in no position to exercise its sovereignty.

PIZA DENIES INVESTIGATION INTO ALLEGED SPY NETWORK

PA212122 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] This morning the public security minister denied having any information about the operation of an alleged Sandinist espionage network in the country's refugee camps. Benjamin Piza said that neither the Public Security Ministry nor the Intelligence and Security Directorate, DIS, are investigating reports of such a network. However, the public security minister said that investigations are under way on the possible existence of a Sandinist espionage network in San Carlos, which is where the DIS is concentrating its efforts.

JAMAICAN OFFICIAL, GUTIERREZ DISCUSS COOPERATION

PA231329 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Jamaican Minister Without Portfolio Oswald Harding has arrived in Costa Rica on a private visit. Although it is a private visit the Jamaican minister arrived in Costa Rica yesterday and will remain here until Sunday. During his stay in San Jose he will meet with government officials and the business sector. However, the main reason for his trip is to activate several aspects of the bilateral relations between Costa Rica and Jamaica. Harding met yesterday with Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez with whom he discussed matters related to the implementation of cooperation programs included in an agreement signed a year ago. This agreement has not been ratified, which is why no progress has been made, as Foreign Minister Gutierrez recognized.

The Jamaican official has again extended an invitation to Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge to visit Jamaica in mid-April. A world conference on youth will be held in Jamaica at that time and the Costa Rican president has been invited to be one of the main speakers during this conference. Foreign Minister Gutierrez will inform President Monge of this invitation so that he may decide whether to visit Jamaica in April.

Minister Oswald Harding expressed his government's concern over the Central American situation and reiterated its willingness to contribute any efforts to achieve peace. The Jamaican Government also requested information on the Contadora process and the differences existing among the countries. The historic ties between Jamaica and Costa Rica, due to circumstances which have been recognized by the two nations, were stressed.

EL SALVADOR

GOVERNMENT PROTESTS STATEMENTS BY SENATOR HELMS

PA232009 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 23 Feb 85 pp 5, 17

[Text] U.S. Senator Jesse Helms' statements about President Jose Napoleon Duarte are inexplicable.

The Salvadoran Foreign Ministry has expressed its rejection of those statements "and regrets the tone in which they were made."

A bulletin from the Information Secretariat at the Presidential Palace states that the senator in question, through the U.S. Embassy in our country, made statements in which, "ignoring the most essential rules of international courtesty, he has shown disrespect for President Jose Napoleon Duarte, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, the electoral process, and the dignity of the Salvadoran people."

Senator Helms' statements, which have resulted in a protest from the Salvadoran Government, refer to a political announcement published within the framework of the current electoral campaign which implicates Nationalist Republican Alliance leader Roberto D'Aubuisson in a $6-million contraband operation. Regarding this shameful case, the bulletin states: "It implicates a Salvadoran political leader in drug trafficking. President Duarte has not made any comment or statement whatsoever. We fell that Senator Helms has been misinformed by his friends in this country, and therefore his statements are inexplicable."

The protest note from the Foreign Ministry states that "Senator Helms, due to the enormous interest he has displayed in events in our country, cannot be unaware that there are efforts in El Salvador to consolidate a pluralistic democratic system and that these great efforts face obstacles of various types. In overcoming them, the U.S. Government and people have been positive factors."

El Salvador, meanwhile, the note adds, has the institutions and laws needed to moderate the development of any electoral campaign, and it is improper for foreign citizens of any rank to make statements about the president. All of this, it concludes, gives way to protests and rejection of the U.S. senator's statements.

TWO U.S.-MADE ARMY HELICOPTERS CRASH NEAR CAPITAL

U.S. Adviser on Board

PA221230 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0557 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] San Salvador, 22 Feb (REUTER) -- A Salvadoran Army helicopter with a U.S. military adviser on board crashed near the international airport of this capital, but none of the occupants was seriously injured, U.S. Embassy spokesmen announced last night.

They indicated that the Huey UH-1H crashed yesterday during a "routine training mission" near the Compala Airport, some 5 km east of the capital. Asked about the cause of the crash, a U.S. Embassy official said: "All I know is that it was a routine training mission. I do not know how it happened."

He added that the two Salvadoran pilots and a U.S. military adviser were not injured seriously, but that all had been transferred to the military hospital in the capital for a "routine checkup."

The United States, the principal supplier of arms and funds to El Salvador in its 5-year war against the left-wing guerrillas, has supplied more than 40 UH-1H helicopters to the Army to strengthen its forces against the rebels.

Cadet Killed in Second Crash

PA240013 Paris AFP in Spanish 1649 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] San Salvador, 23 Feb (AFP) -- Military sources announced today that a Salvadoran Army cadet, Martin Delgado, died last night at the Ilopango Air Base, in the outskirts of this capital, when an UH-1H helicopter suffered an accident as a result of mechanical failure. The report notes that as a result of this accident, the second of this type to take place this week, four persons also suffered injuries. Earlier this week, a similar helicopter carrying a U.S. adviser, had to make an emergency landing at the San Salvador airport. No one died on that occasion.

Meanwhile, trade union sources confirmed today that public transportation remains paralyzed in the country's eastern region because of the FMLN's sabotage campaign.

In spite of the fact that troops from the 3d Brigade, which is headquartered in San Miguel, as well as the military detachments of the Departments of Usulutan, Morazan, and La Union have stated that they will guarantee free transit on the region's roads, "no one wants to run the risk," a spokesman for the business sector has said.

Meanwhile, the Army has stated that this week it inflicted more than 20 dead on the guerrillas as a result of operations carried out in various parts of the country.

GUERRILLAS SABOTAGE TRANSPORTATION, POWER

Army on State of Alert

PA241245 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 22 Feb 85 pp 2, 42

[Text] All Army soldiers are on a state of general alert in view of subversive threats to sabotage highways and places of employment. This has been reported by Colonel Julio Agustin Trujillo, commander of the 1st Infantry Brigade, when questioned about the measures the Armed Forces have adopted to counteract the FMLN's threats over clandestine media that highways would be blocked to prevent the movement of both public transportation vehicles and private automobiles.

He said that the state of alert is complete and not limited to highway communications, adding that efforts are being redoubled to provide additional protection to employment sources in the countryside, such as coffee mills, plantations, and generally all places where commercial activities are carried out. The military officer said that the goal is to guarantee the safety of the working class, so that workers can devote themselves to production activities for the benefit of their families, in the first place, and for the country at large. He asserted that operations are under way throughout the country to prevent and neutralize the activities of the subversives, whose only aim is to destroy and sow sorrow among the humble people, who are firmly opposed to their indoctrination and falsehoods.

Trujillo said that this attitude of the Salvadoran people further commits the Army to fight at their side to eliminate the common enemy, which receives instructions from Russia, Cuba, and Nicaragua. These countries not only send instructions but abundant armament and ammunition, which the terrorist organizations use to wound and kill Salvadorans, to destroy sources of employment, and to harm the nation's economy as much as possible.

Finally, he said that the Army defends the people's cause because this was the ideal of its founder, General Manuel Jose Arce, who called it the legion of freedom.

Police Bus Attacked

PA231426 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 21 Feb 85 p 63

[Text] Last night extremists posted at buildings near Arce Street, 1st Street West, and 23d Street North attacked a National Police bus with grenades and rifle fire. The official report states that the bus driver was killed and several officers were seriously wounded. They are now at the military hospital. At approximately 1900 as the bus, which was going from east to west, made a left turn on 23d Street North it was attacked with RPG-2 grenades and rifle fire.

Rumors indicated that five officers had been slain, but they were denied. We have learned that a civilian was killed when caught in the crossfire between the terrorists and the National Police officers, who repelled their assailants.

The uninjured officers took up positions and began firing at the terrorists, who returned the fire as they retreated.

Traffic became paralyzed in a large area near the Rosales Hospital, the Social Security Hospital, the Girls' Central Institute, the 1 May Clinic, the former Bloom Hospital, and Cuscatlan Park. Employees and workers in commercial and industrial centers, restaurants, clinics, schools, and so on were trapped during the shooting.

When the shooting stopped, that is, when the urban terrorists had supposedly abandoned their position after being routed by 1st Infantry Brigade units and National Police officers, a special tactics group entered the buildings from which the extremists had made their attack to determine if there were any subversives left behind.

Traffic was restored to normal at approximately 1930, when the searches ended in the buildings near the scene of the shooting.

Traffic in East Halted

PA220357 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Feb 85

[By Raul Beltran]

[Excerpt] Here are the reports from the country's eastern zone. In Usulutan Department, there is heavy fighting between Army and FMLN units along a stretch between Tierra Blanca and the razed (Puente de Oro), which in areas known (Caserio El Manguito) and El Rebalse. The fighting which began at 0600 this morning is still continuing in these sectors. According to initial reports, it was learned that extremist elements ambushed a military vehicle at the time and place already mentioned and a clash ensued. Later, reinforcements arrived and the exchange of fire is continuing along the Coastal Highway.

Meanwhile, transportation in this department, especially toward San Salvador and San Miguel Departments, has completely stopped because drivers are afraid that their vehicles will be destroyed as the transportation paralyzation announced by the leftist guerrillas enters its second day.

In La Union Department, the General Directorate of Land Transportation reports that so far only one bus has been dispatched to the La Union port and that traffic toward the cities of San Franciso, Usulutan, and Santa Rosa de Lima has completely stopped. According to the report, only three interdepartmental buses have been dispatched from San Miguel Department to this capital city. It adds that the drivers are not servicing the early morning shifts because they are afraid that their buses may be attacked.

Traffic to the eastern sector, specifically traffic in the eastern zone, we repeat, has completely stopped, despite the Army's constant surveillance. According to the reports, rebel elements have not attempted any attacks.

Here is our report from La Union Department. The paralyzation of transportation of goods and persons has been confirmed in Santa Rosa de Lima city. Meanwhile at least 30 vans from Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Guatemala have been stranded at the border post known as El Amatillo customs house, located in the Goascoran River. The drivers do not want to expose their vans to greater risks, because of the constant threats and because the highways are deserted. We repeat, here is our report from the country's eastern zone for today.

In Morazan Department, it was confirmed that the "Torola-5" and "Cobra" counterinsurgency operations are continuing at full force on the outskirts of Perquin, San Fernando, Arambala, as well as near (Bianguera). Since yesterday A-37 planes and other Salvadoran Air Force units have been bombing the alleged leftist guerrillas' positions in the north of this department.

San Vicente Without Power

PA231555 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Last night FMLN rebels destroyed two high-tension towers in downtown San Cayetano Istepeque, San Vicente Department, military sources confirmed today. They indicated that, taking advantage of the absence of Armed Forces surveillance in the area, rebels entered the town and proceeded to dynamite the towers, leaving all of San Vicente Department without power as of 2200 last night. Army units were mobilized to the area this morning in an attempt to track down the rebels and support power company crews working to restore energy in the department.

A counterinsurgency operation in the (El Crater) area and at Los Andes farm, in Santa Ana Department, began on Thursday, civilian and military sources have reported. They added that approximately 1 week ago rebels were sighted in the area as they apparently attempted to set up camp at the Los Andes farm.

Reports issued by the 2d Infantry Brigade in Santa Ana state that there have been no clashes in the Coatepeque area, where FMLN guerrillas are being sought. The source added that clashes were heard last night in the Los Andes area, and although the Army sustained no casualities, the rebels' casualty count was not reported.

GOVERNMENT INVITES OBSERVERS TO VIEW ELECTIONS

PA240303 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Excerpts] El Salvador has invited observers from all countries with which it has diplomatic relations, along with world-renowned personalities such as Peruvian writer Mario Bargas Llosa, to observe the 31 March elections.

This was reported by Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Tenorio, who explained that the Commission for Support to Observers, will be in charge of providing accommodations, security, and facilities for the observers to travel around the country.

[Begin recording] It is always advisable that qualified witnesses attest to the purity with which an event develops. For this reason, and precisely because it has nothing to hide, El Salvador feels honored to welcome personalities from various countries and representatives of democratic governments. They will be our first observers.

Likewise, we are granting all types of facilities to the foreign press. As we said in San Jose, Costa Rica last week, and on several occasions here in El Salvador, there will be no restrictions on representatives of new agencies, regardless of their country of origin or leanings. Anyone wishing to come will be given whatever documents are required so that he can observe the elections in a country that does hold elections.

As for the program itself, El Salvador has already issued invitations through the Foreign Ministry to representatives of foreign governments and other personalities. We think that members of electoral tribunals, senior government officials, writers, political columnists, and other personalities will come. From all countries we have tried to get people of all leanings to come if they desire. The Foreign Ministry is working on the necessary structure to enable the observers not only to come to our country, but to move about freely within it and to observe events preceding the voting, the voting itself, and events following it, that is, the vote count. In addition, they will have the necessary transportation and security to help them fulfill their goals.

We think this will benefit our democratic process. I don't think it would be worthwhile to name the personalities because we do not have many responses yet. The invitations have just been sent. However, we have tried to abide by some criteria that are worth mentioning. We have not invited only people who may like us. The idea has been to invite people of all political leanings and even people who, based on news [word indistinct], may be unsympathetic to our democratic project. [end recording]

He was also asked the following:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Tenorio] We are not interested in inviting the Sandinist government because we have said repeatedly and at various forums that we did not believe in their electoral process. We think that it was a simple formality, that it was superficial, and that it was a mere continuation of the same process. Furthermore, any of you who witnessed it could probably observe the huge restraints that were clamped on the various political groups which truly represent the opposition in Nicaragua. [end recording]

VIDES CASANOVA URGES ARMY TO DEFEND ELECTIONS

PA231346 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 21 Feb 85 pp 3, 17

[Text] Yesterday, during a ceremony for over 200 officers promoted according to a 1 January decree, Salvadoran Defense Minister General Eugenio Vides Casanova stated that the Armed Forces will protect the 31 March elections.

Attending the ceremony in the Presidential Palace's Honor Room were the Armed Forces General Command, composed of President Jose Napoleon Duarte, Defense Minister Vides Casanova, Deputy Security Minister Colonel Reynaldo Lopez Nuila, and General Juan Rafael Bustillo, acting chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Colonels Rafael Flores Lima and Adolfo Onecifero Blandon did not attend because they are out of the country.

Defense Minister Vides Casanova, who delivered the keynote address, discussed the Armed Forces' mission to defend the nation's sovereignty and democracy and urged the audience to uphold "the sacred trust imposed on us by the Republic's Constitution." In addition, Vides Casanova said that during the previous two elections, world attention was centered on the Armed Forces' handling of its mission. He said: "We must uphold our mission for the sake of the prestige and integrity of our beloved institution."

He reiterated that as in previous elections, the Army will keep an eye on the electoral process as to leave no doubt of its role in the defense of democracy. Moreover, he urged the restoration of lost peace and said that the methods currently being used by the Army have improved greatly thanks to the leaders' techniques and the rank and file's discipline in their fulfillment of their mission.

Generals Bustillo and Blandon were the highest-ranking officers promoted, while Colonel Sigfrido Ochoa Perez, chief of the El Paraiso Brigade in Chalatenango Department, was the officer with the most seniority. In addition many colonels, lieutenants colonels, majors, captains, lieutenants, and sublieutenants were promoted, including many National Police officers, who have achieved their status within the Armed Forces through their dedication to study. The ceremony began at 1100 and ended at 1300.

RIGHTS COMMITTEE DENOUNCES PRISON INCIDENT

PA231523 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] The nonofficial Salvadoran Human Rights Committee today denounced the Justice Ministry's complete indifference toward the problem that erupted at the Ilopango women's penitentiary on Monday. It stated that as a result of the indifference that ministry and government authorities in general have shown toward the problem since it began, yesterday morning police opened fire on the political prisoners, seriously wounding three of them in an incident that has attracted widespread attention.

It is imperative that the government open an investigation into these shameful developments soon, particularly because while it is reported at the international level that the human rights situation in El Salvador has improved a great deal, police and prison guards have fired on helpless women prisoners whose only weapons were reason and their voices, the Human Rights Committee's statement concludes.

VENCEREMOS ON TRANSPORT BAN, HELICOPTER CRASH

PA231652 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] We now have reports that on 22 February FMLN guerrilla units built a checkpost on the Northern Trunk Highway near km 29 [word indistinct]. We engaged the enemy at 0300 local time for 20 minutes. Our forces proceeded to build barricades with eight vehicles and asked drivers to obey the FMLN order to paralyze transportation on a national level.

We have been informed that at 0500 the enemy appeared again and clashes ensued until 0600. Our forces inflicted many casualties on the enemy. We received this report on revolutionary activities on the Northern Trunk Highway from the Modesto Ramirez Central Front. The eastern and northern parts of the country are paralyzed by the national transportation stoppage decreed by the FMLN. This is part of our campaign against the regime's economy.

We also have a report that one U.S. adviser and two Salvadoran pilots were seriously injured when the helicopter they were traveling in crashed at the Comalapa International Airport. The U.S.-made helicopter was coming form the war zones in the interior when its crew was forces to crash-land.

GUATEMALA

GOVERNMENT, TRIBUNAL SET ELECTIONS FOR 27 OCT

PA221916 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1844 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Guatemala City, 22 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- General elections will be held in Guatemala on 27 October, it was announced officially today. This was confirmed in a joint communique issued by the military government, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, and the National Constituent Assembly.

The timetable for the elections was released today to Head of State General Oscar Mejia Victores by Arturo Herbruger, president of the Electoral Tribunal, and the three deputy presidents of the Assembly, Roberto Carpio, Ramiro de Leon, and Hector Aragon. The timetable sets 31 May as the date for delivery of the constitution, which the Assembly has been drafting since last August. Five days later the military government will call for elections.

The first elections will be held on 27 October, and, if necessary, a run-off election will be held on 24 November between the candidates holding the first two places.

Finally, the government set jointly with the Electoral Tribunal and the Assembly 15 December as the date for the installation of the elected legislative assembly members and mayors, while the new president will be inaugurated on 14 January 1986.

New FUR To Participate

PA242159 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1230 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] The parties of the democratic left, which have been holding talks for approximately 2 years, have finally reached an agreement. They have agreed to take the name of the United Revolutionary Front, FUR, and to participate as a single organization in the elections that have been approved by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, the National Constituent Assembly, and the head of state.

Four parties will comprise the FUR. The 20 October Movement and the Social Democratic Party (PSD) will be dissolved now that it has been agreed that only FUR will represent the left. The PSD is headed by Carlos Gallardo, and the movement by Marco Antonio Villamar Contreras.

The New Force Party, headed by (Carlos Rafael Soto), and the Humanist Movement of (Victoriano Alvarez) will also be dissolved. All these parties' leaders will be leaders of FUR.

MEJIA LEAVES FOR URUGUAYAN INAUGURATION

PA241859 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1822 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Guatemala City, 24 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- Guatemalan Head of State General Oscar Mejia Victores left today at 0945 (1545 GMT) for Uruguay to attend the inauguration of President-elect Julio Maria Sanguinetti.

After transferring power to Deputy Head of State General Rodolfo Lobos Zamora, Mejia Victores boarded the presidential aircraft which left for Panama, where it will make a "service stopover."

The head of state is accompanied by his wife, Aura Rosal de Mejia, Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade, Pablo Nuila Hub, chief of staff of the Presidency, and Raul Rivera, director of protocol.

During his stay in Montevideo, where Sanguinetti will be inaugurated on 1 March, Mejia Victores will hold "informal" talks with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

Andrade said this morning that on his return from Uruguay, Gen Mejia will also make a private, 24-hour visit to Ecuador, where he will meet with President Leon Febres Cordero.

The head of state will make another stopover in Colombia to repay the visit made to this country last December by President Belisario Betancur.

LOBOS DENIES COUP POSSIBLE DURING MEJIA'S ABSENCE

PA221927 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1857 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 22 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- Army Chief of State General Rodolfo Lobos Zamora said today that Guatemalan Head of State General Oscar Mejia Victores can travel at ease to Uruguay because "the Army is solidly united."

The ranking military commander, who will replace Mejia Victores during his absance, was responding to rumors about the possibility of a coup in the absence of the head of state.

Gen Lobos Zamora, who also holds the post of deputy head of state, said that in the absence of Mejia Victores "there will not be any kind of problem. Therefore, he can travel at ease."

HONDURAS

PRESIDENCY SECRETARY ADMITS CONTRAS' PRESENCE

PA231931 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1840 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 23 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- Today the Honduran Government admitted officially and for the first time to the presence of Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries in its territory. Ubodoro Arriaga Iraheta, Honduran secretary of the Presidency, acknowledged the presence of Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries on Honduran soil and held that "it is a problem we have to face."

The ranking official also confirmed that during economic and military negotiations between Honduras and the United States, the Honduran Government was asked to "participate in covert war plans through the anti-Sandinists." In this regard, Ubodoro Arriaga Iraheta replied: "We must be logical and coherent but not fall prey to international servitude or a sick nationalism."

"We have a powerful, extraordinary friend and a large market, and as they say: Business is business; the best client is the best friend," Arriaga Iraheta noted.

The official described Honduras' position in its negotiations with the United States as "a balanced stand" requiring increased economic assistance and military support. "The economic assistance given us by the United States must be consistent with the military assistance in order to meet the cost of developing our security system," Arriaga Iraheta explained.

"Sometimes Honduras faces tremendous difficulties when it is demonstrated that the men fighting the Nicaraguan Government have penetrated our territory," Arriaga Iraheta stated. The secretary recalled that Honduras' immigration laws prohibit foreigners from participating in warlike actions against another country from Honduran territory.

"However these problems arise without our having anything to do with them. They are problems that exist, and we have to face them, one way or another, to be able to resolve our own position of respect for the self-determination of peoples," the Honduran official added.

Arriaga Iraheta also said that "the Honduran Government respects the right of all citizens from all parts of the world to believe in their ideas and to fight for them.

According to the Sandinist regime of Nicaragua, some 12,000 rebels, supported by the U.S. CIA, permanently harass military positions in Nicaragua from camps in Honduran territory.

The official Honduran stand on this matter has been reiterated by Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica, who described the war as "a conflict of Nicaragua, between Nicaraguans, and in Nicaraguan territory,"

Anti-Sandinist Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) sources in Tegucigalpa did not comment on Ubodoro Arriaga Traheta's statement.

COMMUNIQUE REJECTS ALLEGED SALVADORAN ATTACK

PA221637 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0130 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Communique issued by the Armed Forces Public Relations Directorate; date not given]

[Text] Here is a last-minute report. We have received an official Armed Forces communique denying a ground and aerial attack by the Salvadoran Armed Forces. It states that the report appearing on section 1, page 3 of a Tegucigalpa newspaper on Thursday, 21 February under the headline: "The Salvadoran Army Launches a Ground and Air Attack Against Honduran Troops in Intibuca," is not quite true.

2. [no No 1 as heard] That incident has been exaggerated. It occurred when regular troops of our brother country were pursuing a group of criminal subversives and came close to the border area where our troops were carrying out guard and security duty. Some shots coming from El Salvador hit the area where the Honduran troops were, but no casualties resulted. We confirmed that there was no violation of or aerial attack on our territory. The exchange of rifle fire was between the guerrillas and Salvadoran troops. Our troops did not open fire.

[Signed] Public Relations Directorate, Honduran Armed Forces

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA ON FUNDS FOR CONTRAS, REAGAN STATEMENTS

PA230256 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2343 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega at the National House for Support to Combatants, in Managua -- broadcast in progress; live]

[Excerpts] This once was the national campaign headquaters of the FSLN. Now it is the National House for Support to Combatants. In inaugurating this National House for Support to Combatants we are giving it the name of the Boitano brothers. This mother here has lost two sons. They could have fallen fighting against the Somoza dictatorship; it is plausible that they could have fallen in the struggle against the Somoza dictatorship and that following the revolutionary victory, we should name our work -- not the house or building -- after the Boitano brothers.

But the truth is that the Boitano brothers did not die fighting the Somoza dictatorship prior to 19 July 1979. They fell after the revolutionary victory. Mario Andres fell in 1983 and Eduardo Andres died in 1984.

This means that Somoza's guards did not kill them. It was the U.S. Government's guards who killed them. The guards, the mercenaries of the U.S. Government killed them. Therefore we must speak of the tragedy that Nicaragua is enduring. We would like to have no need for dedicating this National House for Support to Combatants and we would not be dedicating it if we did not have a war. But we have a war and we have aggression. We have had to face this war and this aggression with fighters and the fighters need the support of the people, of the entire nation.

I said that we have to speak about this tragedy. We have said, we have repeated over and over that this is a war imposed on the Nicaraguan people and we will not grow tired of saying it over and over again.

This war was provoked by the U.S. Government. This appears to be a senseless war since the U.S. Government says that it wants peace in Central America, the Nicaraguan Government says that it wants peace in Central America, and the Central American Governments repeat that they want peace in Central America. Then, why is there war in Central America?

The explanation is clear. There is no need for interpretations. It becomes increasingly clear. The U.S. Government and the U.S. President are increasingly clear in announcing and in defending their policy of war, aggression, and terrorism against the Nicaraguan people.

And the United States is here with its military forces carrying out maneuvers in Honduran territory on the border with Nicaragua. And they have demonstrated their show of force. In recent days they took warships to Costa Rican ports. And there are the mercenary forces, the guards of President Reagan, attacking the Nicaraguan people, murdering workers, teachers, and children.

I said that the U.S. Government's responsibility in this war of aggression against Nicaragua is increasingly evident, because the U.S. President is engaged in a real campaign, in a true crusade, to influence and pressure the U.S. Congress and to force it to approve millions of new funds for the mercenary forces, $14 million in funds.

If the problem were only the $14 million, we could say that the U.S. President should not waste his time in making long speeches and granting press conferences, and in preparing movie scenes to create an impact on the U.S. people and Congress. Why? Because the U.S. Congress froze those funds last year; but that amount, and much more -- not only $14 million, but $28 million and more -- have continued to reach the mercenary forces.

The U.S. Government has found other ways to send funds to the mercenary forces, either through third countries or front organizations created by the CIA in the United States. Then we ask: If the money has been reaching the mercenary forces, why should the U.S. President now make such great efforts to obtain approval of $14 million?

The question is not really the $14 million. It is the political significance that the U.S. Congress should vote for or against the $14 million. We think the U.S. President is aware that if the U.S. Congress should vote against the $14 million, then the U.S. Government, and therefore its President, will have to take into account the opinion of the U.S. Congress. Then, perhaps, there may be better conditions for a negotiated political solution. At least, it would no longer be so easy for the U.S. Government to continue ignoring the negotiation efforts being made by the Contadora Group, and the ones they pretended to be holding in Manzanillo. In any case, they would be forced to declare themselves in favor of negotiations or not.

On the other hand, should the $14 million be approved, then the U.S. President will realize that the entire U.S. Congress, therefore, the two big U.S. parties, are fully endorsing his aggressive, warmongering, terrorist policy in Central America. And under such circumstances, we would have to consider even a possible U.S. direct military intervention.

Thus, more than the $14 million or any other amount, the vote is a political one. Such a vote can defeat the war policy and strengthen a policy of negotiation and peace in Central America. On the other hand, a vote in favor of the $14 million would be a vote in favor of the policy of war and force, and we would then have to forget the possibility of negotiations. That would be a crippling blow; in fact, that would really kill Contadora. And this is not for the benefit of those who think Contadora is dead, because down deep, they want Contadora dead, since they do not want a negotiated political solution in Nicaragua, but a military solution. Contadora is not dead, but the U.S. Government leaders want to kill Contadora.

Hence all the efforts and the time spent. Almost daily, the U.S. President dedicates a good part of his time to Nicaragua. The biggest attacks launched at this time by the U.S. President against any country in the world are being directed at Nicaragua. He has offered a number of interviews lately, in which, among other things, he has stated: The present government structure in Nicaragua must be removed. The Sandinist government is a communist and totalitarian government, which was not elected by the people.

He spoke of the need to provide whatever aid the freedom fighters and democracy require. He called the counterrevolutionaries his brothers.

Recently, President Reagan said: We believe it is our obligation to help the freedom fighters in any way possible, the lovers of freedom and democracy, wherever they may be. He added: I do not believe the Sandinists have a single decent leg to stand on. What they have is totalitarianism, brutal and cruel. They have provided no answer for what the rest of the Nicaraguan people want.

The analyses published by the international and U.S. press have shown concern over the statements made by President Reagan.

One analyst said that even though the topic of Nicaragua took up only a few minutes of the 30 minute press conference, the statements regarding Nicaragua have caused such an impact because Reagan place himself a step away from declaring war. Other analysts stressed the President's statements accusing Congress of being completely wrong about (?events) in Nicaragua.

International news agencies have stressed the fact that during his campaign to resume aid to the contras, the President has publicly threatened to overthrow the Sandinist government, which he feels is brutal and cruel. The Voice of America said the following today: President Reagan strongly denounced the leftist Nicaraguan regime stating, that one of the objectives of his government is to rid them [suprimirlos] of their present structure. He defended his proposal for funds to aid the contras opposing the Managua regime.

So went the many reactions to these systematic statements and accusations by the U.S. President against Nicaragua. He has reached an extreme in manipulation. Although it is true that this has no impact on Latin America and, on the contrary, shows President Reagan to be a manipulator of history, these actions are indeed aimed at affecting the American people, at confusing and manipulating the American people.

He has gone as far as comparing Bolivar with the so-called freedom fighters. Suddenly, the U.S. President talks about Bolivar, about the founding fathers of Latin America. We want to remind you that when Bolivar was fighting for independence, when the Supreme Junta had been formed in 1810 and recognition from the U.S. Government was sought, that government did not recognize the Venezuelan patriots; it did not recognize the Supreme Junta of Caracas.

Twelve years had to pass, from 1810 to 1822, before the United States recognized their independence, the independent sovereign Government of Venezuela, the government that Bolivar had defended, had headed. On several occasions Bolivar complained about the difficulties, the obstacles that were raised in the United States to giving support to the patriots struggling for independence. At that time, there was no support in the United States, from the government, for the true freedom fighters in South America, in Venezuela. There was no appropriation in the U.S. Government's budget for the patriots who were struggling alongside Bolivar. On the contrary, there were obstacles and there was no recognition.

What the U.S. Government is indeed doing now through the CIA is an effort to unite the Somozist guardsmen with the Arturo Cruzes, the Pedro Chamorros, the Robelos, the Pastoras and then try to sell to the American people the idea that this is a democratic product that must be backed, that must be supported, and even recognized as a provisional government.

If they manage to unite those mercenary forces and if a provisional government emerges, it would not be a suprise for it to be immediately recognized by the U.S. Government as it was not a surpirse that when Texas was annexed to the United States they immediately recognized the government that annexed it to the United States.

However, it has indeed been a common trait of U.S. Government leaders not to recognize popular, democratic governments, governments that really defend independence and sovereignty, and 12 years had to elapse before the U.S. Government leaders recognized Bolivar's government. Twelve years had to pass.

We have already had 5 years of revolution, of democracy, of independence, and the U.S. Government has not fully recognized this nation, this government, or this people.

In 1820, when he had not been recognized by the United States, Bolivar wrote the following: Never has a behavior been more infamous than that of the North Americans toward us. They already see the fate of things sealed and with either protests or offers which are probably false, they want to flatter us to get close [intimar] to the Spaniards and make them join their interests. The President's [word indistinct] is admirable, he said, referring to the U.S. President. They were engaged in tricks, schemes, and pressures of all types, and the U.S. officials called Bolivar a dictator. This is documented.

They were concerned over Bolivar's efforts to gather the Latin American people, to unite the people of Latin America, and in spite of every effort of Latin America, and in spite of every effort by Bolivar, U.S. emissaries rushed everywhere to work [words indistinct] the meetings, to sabotage those efforts, and to describe Bolivar as a dictator. Maybe President Reagan is not familiar with this part of history.

It is really tragic that there are some Americans who are ignorant of Latin America's history, although the United States has been so closely and so brutally linked to Latin America's history. Those Americans who are ignorant of Latin America's history do not even know where the Latin American countries are located. Perhaps, President Reagan suffers from that same ailment, and does not know that Bolivar did not get along with the U.S. leaders in his time. Reagan does not know that Bolivar was against imperialism and that the U.S. Government did not recognize him for 12 years. Perhaps the U.S. President does not now the historical fact.

The truth is that he is now engaged in an all-out campaign against Nicaragua; a dangerous campaign, a worrisome campaign. In the electoral campaign, he offered the American voters peace in the world, in Central America, and everywhere else. But now he is actually fanning war, terror, and aggression here in Central America, particularly against Nicaragua. It is worrisome to see that although they state that they want a negotiated political solution to the existing problems with Nicaragua, and in the Central American region, in effect they are doing the opposite. Reagan is committing his endeavors and the U.S. President's prestige to such a negative crusade as this one.

Yet the U.S. Government not only been engaging in this type of action. We have already mentioned the military maneuvers threatening Nicaragua from Honduran territory, the U.S. military presence in Costa Rica in the form of warships, the actions of the mercenary forces who receive funds through other channels, U.S. President Reagan's systematic campaign to seek political support, not in terms of the $14 million, but rather by promoting the $14 million to obtain political support for his war and terrorists actions against Nicaragua here in Central America.

He is also causing us great damage in the economic field. Recently, there have been long lines of cars at the gas stations. A week ago, there were no such lines at the gas stations; there was no such pressure on the gas stations. At first, the Nicaraguan Petroleum Enterprise [Petronic] tried to handle the situation with an explanation that did not truthfully represent the facts. Because, I believe, the demand for fuel was greater [words indistinct] as of January. Later, a communique explained that there had been a delay in the oil shipment in Nicaragua. Petronic was then telling the truth. Why did Petronic state that? Petronic wanted...[rephrases] Sure, Petronic's original version was a mistake. However, the enterprise did that to try to gain time to be able to solve an existing problem regarding an oil shipment. But, in sum, the problem was not solved, and it has not been solved yet. What is the problem? Mexico and the Soviet Union are among the countries that provide us with oil. Iran, Libya, and Algeria also provide us with oil. A shipment was coming, or was expected from Ecuador, as a result of an agreement signed by the companies involved in oil production or marketing. That is standard. For example, if a company in Europe or Asia wants to sell oil to a Latin American country, an oil-producing Latin American country can compensate for its purchases by supplying oil to the Latin American country that is a client of that European or Asian company. This is a three-sided operation. These things are standard. Political elements are not expected to play a part in this matter, but rather this is standard procedure among all oil-producing countries. Well then, we were expecting this shipment from Ecuador. The Soviet company, through London, had made a deal with Ecuadoran company.

The vessel arrived and started loading and, when it had been halfway loaded, an order to suspend loading was issued. Where did the order and the pressure originate? It is well known that it originated with the U.S. Government. These are the problems that we have been experiencing lately. This affects everything, for instance, urban transporation but, in particular, production activities and transportation for defense. Of course, the U.S. Government wants us to have fuel problems here in this country so that we cannot produce, so that the mobilization of our fighters is hampered, and so that the people, as a result, will hold a dim view of the revolution. This is what they want to do with these actions; this is the plan of the U.S. rulers.

Another situation which we have learned about has to do with the IDB. For almost 2 years, they blocked a credit for nearly $58 million for Nicaragua. This credit could have been used for the development of the country's agricultural sector. At last the situation was settled and the credit has been moving forward, only the actual transfer of funds remains.

We know that the IDB has been pressured by high-ranking U.S. Government officials not to approve this loan for Nicaragua. They have given two reasons: technical and political. We all know that the main reasons invoked by the United States are always political, rather than technical, because all Latin American countries have technical and financial problems. I would say also that all Latin American countries have political problems with the United States, some to a greater extent than others. We Nicaraguans are the ones who have the biggest political problem with the United States and, in addition, we now have this economic aggression by the U.S. Government through multilateral organizations. You have all come to open this national house for all combatants. The mere fact, however, that we speak of combatants forces us to speak of the policy that has compelled all Nicaraguans to be permanently prepared militarily and to receive combat training to confront the situation caused by U.S. policy.

The picture, thus presented, is difficult. I would say it gets more and more difficult with the passage of time. It appears that this U.S. Administration is almost irreversibly committed to a policy that will cause the Nicaraguan people more destruction, grief, and sacrifice. We have said, however, that, in addition to conducting armed revolutionary actions to annihilate, destroy, and defeat the mercenary forces, we will also continue striving and struggling for peace. When we have said we want peace it is because we really want peace.

We are sure that if the U.S. President were here in our shoes looking at the grief of Nicaraguan mothers and the destruction caused by U.S. aggression, he would also truly favor peace.

But he is comfortably installed in a safe position defending terrorism in the name of democracy, defending injustice and lack of freedom in the name of democracy. We are sure that this will be rejected by the U.S. Congress.

When this happens, there will be better conditions for us to move forward toward a peaceful solution to the problems that have been caused by the United States. Then, there will be better conditions to end the weeping, suffering, and grief of Nicaraguan mothers and families. Then, the thousands of fighters mobilized at the war fronts will be able to return to their homes. Then, the poor peasants, the average peasants, and those of above-average condition will be able to work and produce in peace. Then, we will be able to have safe schools and health centers deep in the mountains.

But, in order to achieve this, we must fight with energy, firmness, and determination. Free fatherland or death!

FURTHER RESPONSE TO REAGAN PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS

Embassy Refutes Statements

PA231331 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Washington -- The Nicaraguan Embassy in Washington reacted last night to President Reagan's statements and stressed that, despite Reagan's assertions to the contrary, the contras are former members of the Somozist National Guard. The embassy noted that most contra leaders are former members of the National Guard who fought to defend dictator Anastasio Somoza and that, contrary to Reagan's assertions, they had struggled against the revolution. The former Somozist guardsmen are the ones who have resorted to terrorist tactics against the Nicaraguan people. They did so during Somoza's time and are doing so now with the contras, the embassy said.

In a brief communique, it noted that the Reagan administration was the one that brought together and organized the former Somozist guardsmen to fight the Sandinist government after the victory of the revolution.

The embassy announced tonight its intention to wait for other local reaction before making a deeper analysis of the implications of President Reagan's statement. Reagan said during his press conference that the contras had fought against the Somozist dictatorship and had been displaced by the Sandinists after the latter reached power.

Party Leaders Comment

PA241939 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Leaders of several Nicaraguan political parties have expressed repudiation of U.S. President Ronald Reagan's statements to the effect that the Sandinist government must be removed. Speaking before reporters from the AGENCIA NUEVA NICARAGUA news agency, Luis Sanchez Sancho, secretary general of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party, said that Reagan's statements are a desperate attempt to continue his policy of aggression against the Nicaraguan people and government. For its part, the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board stated that the United States wants to crush the revolution because, they said, Sandinists have not carried through their initial commitments. Meanwhile, Ariel Bravo Lorio of the Communist Party of Nicaragua said that Reagan's statements seek to set the stage for U.S. congressional approval of more aid for the contras.

INE ANNOUNCES MEASURES FOR FUEL SUPPLY PROBLEM

PA211454 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 21 Feb 85 p 6

[Communique issued by the Nicaraguan Energy Institute, INE; date not given]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Energy Institute reports the following to the citizens:

1. The obvious problem with the fuel supply is due to the following unforeseen circumstances:

A. A lack of production at the refinery and delays in the supply of crude.

B. A delay in the arrival of shipments with the programmed import of petroleum by-products.

2. The aforementioned causes have forced this institute to establish priorities for the sake of production and basic services. Reserves will be used for these purposes, and therefore, we will have to reduce the normal delivery of gasoline, diesel, and kerosene at the national level to certain levels.

3. Petronic will receive between 23 and 26 February shipments of petroleum by-products and the refinery will resume operations on 8 March. This will allow us to suspend current restrictions imposed on diesel and gasoline consumption on 26 February.

FDN LEADER ON DEFEATING SANDINIST REGIME

PA250338 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 16 Feb 85 p 21 A

[Text] Even though he admitted that they are fighting a "tremendously larger and better equipped enemy," which has great logistical advantages and "apparently inexhaustible funds," Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, top political-military leader of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) did not hesitate in stating that "the crisis in Nicaraguan will be settled this year."

"All factors are falling into place," added the former manager of the Coca-Cola Bottling Company. "This is the Sandinists' year 1979" (When Somoza fell). His prediction is based on the perception that the internal crisis, the ravenous military spending, and the regime's declining image abroad facilitate the work of the insurgents.

In addition, he admitted that even though U.S. military aid to the FDN is "necessary," it is not indispensable to achieving the group's ultimate goal, which is to overthrow the Marxist-Leninist regime in Managua.

Calero Portocarrero, president of the FDN National Directorate and commander in chief of the FDN's armed forces, granted an exclusive interview to LA NACION on Thursday.

The leader of the largest anti-Sandinist group stated that since assuming power, the regime has presented the internal crisis in the country as an event that has external causes. However, reality is clear in the sense that the origin of and solution to the problem are exclusively Nicaraguan matters.

In Adolfo Portocarrero's opinion, the foreign aspects that affect the crisis in Nicaragua are "secondary" and a natural result of the interdependence of nations. He repeated that the leftist regime "has always minimized the internal aspects."

Nevertheless, the leaders in Managua have recently had to admit to administrative errors and to make adjustments; in Calero's opinion, this "does not make them more capable of solving the crisis." The FDN leader foresees no possibility to change or reverse the Sandinists' actions because they would regard such steps as "reformism." "They are permanently in a state of crisis of ideology versus reality."

In addition, he expressed no illusions that the Nicaraguan Government leaders will accept one last peace proposal which several civic and armed groups will present in a matter of weeks. Regarding the foreseeable rejection, Calero said that the option would be to continue and expand the armed, political, and diplomatic struggle "to succeed in totally isolating the FSLN."

A reopening of the 17th consultative meeting of the OAS foreign ministers holds a preferential place within this strategy.

In June 1979, when the Somoza regime was on its deathbed, this forum asked for the replacement of that regime and called for pluralistic elections as well as respect for human rights. The rebels feel that only the first request has been fulfilled.

The top FDN leader noted that "the armed struggle is not enough. We also require help from the American countries" in replacing the Sandinist regime.

CASTRO ATTENDS SIGNING OF FRENCH-CUBAN ACCORD

FL231954 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] A cooperation accord has been signed by the French-Cuban and Cuban-French medical associations, at which Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers and first secretary of the party's Central Committee, was present.

The document was signed by Professors (Jacques Routh) and Rodrigo Alvarez Cambras, president of their respective associations which were established with the hope of cooperating in the health field.

The accord will broaden the exchange of medical information, increase scholarships for health professionals and highly skilled technicians, and promote joint research projects, (?qualified assistance for patients), cooperation in teaching, congresses, and other scientific activities.

The Cuban side was especially interested in the specialties of tropical medicine, orthopedic surgey, multi-trauma care, cardiovascular surgery, hygiene and epidemiology, genetic engineering, and intensive therapy, among other matters. The French-Cuban association was interested in psychiatry, public health education, first aid, and surgery.

HAVANA SAYS 'BIG PINE III' MANEUVERS SMOKE SCREEN

FL221936 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] The spectacular deployment of U.S. troops and war material in Honduras as part of the "Big Pine III" maneuvers has worsened the situation in the area and sabotaged the roads which lead to peace.

The exercises which began on 11 February and are scheduled to end on 3 May, include the participation of thousands of U.S. Green Beret and Ranger troops brought especially to the tropics and sent to areas extremely close to the Nicaraguan border.

Thousands of Americans and Hondurans are building fortified combat positions; making artillery preparations; conducting warfare training, joint land-air deployment activities, and counterinsurgency operations; and rehearsing saturation bombing exercises.

Why such a show of force? The "Big Pine III" maneuvers represent a new attempt by the White House to intimidate the Sandinists, and the beginning of a prolonged campaign of political, military, and economic pressure, generated in Washington against Nicaragua.

At the same time, the maneuvers in Honduras serve as a smoke screen for the Yankees' plan to stay in Central America, for the longest possible time each year. There are thousands of soldiers, who with a vast amount of training, are prepared for any contingency.

For international analysts, "Big Pine III" presents itself as possible cover for the new supplying of goods and ammunition to Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries who are suffering from the effects of the Sandinist People's Army's offensive.

The obstacles to Contadora, the end of talks with Nicaragua, and the "Big Pine III" military deployment in Honduras place on the table the White House's intentions to impose solutions of force on a region which needs more than ever a sincere dialogue and equitable accords.

1985 COOPERATION PLAN SIGNED BY UNEAC, USSR

FL221958 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1904 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] The USSR Union of Writers and the National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists (UNEAC) have signed in Moscow a mutual cooperation plan for the year 1985. The document was signed at the headquarters of the USSR Union of Writers by (Giriy Varshenkov) second secretary of the USSR Union of Writers, and Onelio Jorge Cardoso, vice president of the UNEAC.

After the documents were exchanged, (Varshenkov) explained that the 1985 plan had been signed on the 15th anniversary of the first agreement between Soviet and Cuban writers, which he and UNEAC President Nicolas Guillen had also signed in Moscow. Onelio Jorge Cardoso stressed the fact that the signing of the plan consolidated a cultural relation that had lasted 15 years with respect, admiration, and consideration.

GDR'S DEPUTY CHAIRMAN SCHUERER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

FL221730 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1320 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Gerhard Schuerer, candidate member of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and GDR deputy chairman, arrived in our country last night for a work and rest visit. Our colleague Richard Richards has more information.

[Begin recording] Comrade Schuerer heads a delegation of the brother country's State Planning Commission which will meet with its Cuban counterpart on the progress of coordination plans for economic and social development of the two countries for the 1986-1990 period.

Humberto Perez, alternate Politburo member, vice president of the Council of Ministers, and president of the Central Planning Board, headed the Cuban delegation which went to the airport terminal to greet the GDR delegation. Rene Pomoo, vice president of the Central Planning Board, Heinz Langer, GDR ambassador to Cuba, and Cubans working in the GDR Embassy were also present. [end recording]

FRIENDSHIP INSTITUTE NOTES GUYANA'S ANNIVERSARY

FL221735 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1320 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Guillen Zelaya, vice president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples, said in a ceremony commemorating Guyana's 15th anniversary, that the Caribbean countries struggle heroically for their national and neocolonialist policy.

1979 ALGERIAN COOPERATION AGREEMENT RATIFIED

FL222342 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] The Governments of Cuba and Algeria have ratified the agreement that was signed in July 1979 creating a joint intergovernmental commission for economic, scientific, technical, and cultural cooperation. Giraldo Mazola, vice minister of foreign relations, signed for Cuba. Hocine Zatout, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, signed for Algeria.

DEBT RENEGOTIATION ACCORD REACH WITH JAPAN

FL222358 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] An agreement to renegotiate Cuba's official foreign debt with Japan has been signed at the Japanese Embassy. Pelegrin Torras, vice foreign minister of Cuba, and Harayuki Mabuchi, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Japan, signed for their respective governments. The negotiations leading to this agreement were carried out in a spirit of mutual cooperation.

CUBAN DELEGATE URGES DETENTE AT GENEVA MEETING

PA210244 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Feb 85

[Text] Carlos Lechuga, the Cuban delegate to the conference on disarmament, which is taking place in Geneva, urged all of the participants to take advantage of the current situation which is showing some signs of international detente.

Lechuga said that the U.S.-Soviet talks in connection with nuclear weapons are a positive step for achieving peace in the world. The Cuban delegate said that an international detente would enable capitalist developed countries to invest less money in weapons, while at the same time there would be less hunger, more medical attention, and more houses in Third World nations.

RAUL CASTRO CONGRATULATES DEFENSE COUNCIL

FL231330 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, second party secretary and minister of the FAR, has sent his congratulations to the defense council in Venezuela municipality, Ciego de Avila Province, in recognition of their area work to repel any enemy attack.

The letter was relayed by Division General Sixto Batista Santana, alternate Politburo member and chief of the Central Committee's military department. He summarized the provinces defense experience. After visiting several defense zones, Batista Santana said the Venezuela municipality possesses the ability to be the first municipality in the nation ready for defense in salute to the 26th of July.

DOMENECH INAUGURATES MINI-HYDROELECTRIC UNIT

FL231344 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Excerpts] The nation's best linesmen brigades will install 100 km of electrical line in Guatanamo Province before this 26th of July. Meanwhile, in Guantanamo, Joel Domenech, Central Committee member and Council of Ministers vice president, has inaugurated the second mini-hydroelectric unit in this province. The project is part of a program to increase the use of energy sources.

14 Units Ready for Installation

FL202050 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 20 Feb 85

[Text] Cubana de Acero metallurgical enterprise workers have finished 14 mini-hydroelectric units which will be installed in isolated parts of the country. The units will solve the problem of supplying electricity to small communities and production centers.

NATIONAL BANK PRESIDENT RECEIVES BANKING OFFICIAL

FL230228 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Raul Leon Torras, minister president of the National Bank of Cuba, today received Mr (Gian Mari Pesan), director general of the International Institute of Savings Banks, who arrived in Cuba yesterday.

Accompanied by Oscar Alcalde, president of the People's Savings Bank, he said he was very impressed by Cuban achievements in the field of savings, carried out in a record period of time, which he said are an example for other developing countries.

JOINT FAR-BASIC INDUSTRY ACCORDS UNDER STUDY

FL231416 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Brigadier General Francisco Cruz Bourzac, alternate Central Committee member and vice minister of FAR, has toured several of the Ministry of Basic Industry's unions and enterprises. Accompanying him were FAR Ministry directorate chiefs. The purpose of the visit was to study that state organization's development in order to establish cooperation accords.

INCREASE IN WOMEN ENTERING WORK FORCE REPORTED

FL221500 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] There was a 5-percent nationwide increase in women entering the work force in the areas of production, services, and education last year, thus increasing the female work force in this period by more than 1 million workers.

This was reported at a Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC] national meeting in Pinar del Rio Province, which was presided by Rene Penalver, Central Committee member and second secretary of the CTC, and Carol Miranda, chief of the Central Committee's department for attention to mass organizations.

It was also indicated at the meeting that more than 92 percent of the women continued in the work force last year, while 48 percent of the union officer posts were occupied by women.

WOMEN INDUCTED INTO ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY GROUP

FL231400 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] More than 150 young women from Havana have sworn to be faithful soldiers of the fatherland at the third induction ceremony for the voluntary female military service held at Havana's Lenin Park. The women were recruited by the Federation of Cuban Women throughout Havana's municipalities last December. As in the two previous inductions, these young women will serve for 2 years in the first female anti-aircraft artillery regiment of the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

FISHING FLEET ATTEMPTS TO SAVE FOREIGN CURRENCY

FL192018 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] One of the objectives of the Cuban tuna fleet is to reduce by 20 days per ship the stay in foreign ports in this year of the party's third congress. If that measure is accomplished, the fleet will decrease its overall stay by 172 days for repairs. It will mean a great savings of foreign currency for the country. Among the plans of this fleet, is the advance fulfillment of the 6-month plan in salute to the Fishing Industry Ministry report to the People's Government National Assembly.

CONTEST FOR AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS ANNOUNCED

FL201916 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1245 GMT 20 Feb 85

[Text] You can win a radio, television, or a multiband radio. Listen on 24 February between 0900 and 1800 to our shortwave frequencies: 5025 khz 60 meter band and 7035 khz 40 meter band.

Starting from 0900 and every hour on the hour thereafter, you will hear a slogan preceded by our musical tone [tone given]. The winners will be those who correctly copy down the most slogans and the times at which they were broadcast. You should send your letters to: Federation of Cuban Amateur Radio Operations [Federacion de Radio Aficionados de Cuba] Post Office Box 1, Havana 1.

Entries must be received by 15 March.

24 February. Listen to Radio Rebelde's shortwave signal.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEFICIENCIES STOP TRUCKS

FL181900 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1235 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] In Holguin, a group of 276 trucks were not used because they were not properly scheduled for their stops during the month of January, the provincial commission of the ports, transportation, and domestic economy system has reported.

This represented a loss of 1,174 hours, averaging 4.2 hours per truck, mainly because of organization deficiencies.

REPORT ON MATANZAS PROVINCE DEEP-WELL DRILLING

FL181746 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] The first deep-well drilling in the petroleum deposits on the coast of Cardenas Bay near the Icapos Peninsula in the northern part of Matanzas Province is progressing smoothly. A powerful Soviet-made Ural type machine has been drilling since last September and is now nearing the 2,400-meter depth mark.

The deep well in the Varadero-Cardenas area will allow confirmation of expert predictions that the larger and better quality petroleum deposits are under those presently being worked.

GRENADA

BLAIZE DEPARTS FOR SUMMIT MEETING WITH MULRONEY

FL222304 Bridgetown CANA in English 2247 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Feb 22, CANA -- Grenada Prime Minister Herbert Blaize left here today for Jamaica to join fellow Caribbean Community (Caricom) heads of government for Monday's summit with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. Blaize is on his first overseas trip since his New National Party (NNP) won a general election here last December in a landslide.

Today, External and Legal Affairs Minister Ben Jones was sworn in by Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon to act as prime minister, ending speculation as to the number two man in the government. Before the December 3 poll, speculation was rife that either George Brizan or Dr Francis Alexis, leaders of two centrist groups which joined with Blaize's Grenada National Party (GNP) to form the NNP, would emerge as deputy leader. However, during the December 28 historic re-opening of Parliament, Jones was sitting next to Blaize, followed by Brizan and Dr Alexis, leaving observers to conclude that the foreign minister was next in line after the prime minister. Jones, a barrister by profession, has been serving under Blaize for the past 10 years as his deputy in the GNP.

Jones told CANA today that Blaize is expected to hold separate discussions with leaders of the delegations from Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana on resolving differences over the U.S.-led invasion of the island, which the two states opposed. Blaize also intends to raise the issue of the visa restriction imposed on nationals from Grenada travelling to the oil-rich twin island Republic since the army's overthrowing and slaying of leftist Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, which prompted the invasion. We are going to try in whatever way we could to see if we can bring this (visa requirement) to an end, he added.

A government spokesman said the prime minister is being accompanied to Kingston by Curtis Strachan, the clerk of Parliament.

COUNTRY TO JOIN REGIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM

FL231634 Bridgetown CANA in English 2253 GMT 22 Feb 85

[By Alister Hughes]

[Excerpts] St George's, Grenada, Feb 22, CANA -- Grenada's police commissioner Russell Toppin today moved to allay fears about the island's ability to handle its own security with the imminent pullout of the American and Caribbean peacekeeping forces. Toppin's assurances came amid concern expressed in the local press, as the island neared the end of a retraining programme for its police force.

The foreign forces were stationed here since October 1983 when they participated in a joint operation to free Grenada from the rule of a radical military junta that had seized power in a bloody coup. Both forces are expected to be out of Grenada by September. Two Grenadian newspapers had voiced the concern of a section of the community that, with the withdrawal of the visiting forces, the island's security may be at risk.

Toppin said the Grenada police were well trained and in addition, the country could call on its neighbours for help under the Regional Security System (RSS). Grenada has announced plans to join the RSS, which provides for Barbados, Dominica, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Antigua-Barbuda, St Kitts-Nevis, and St Lucia to cooperate in security matters.

JAMAICA

PRIME MINISTER CONFIRMS NEW AGREEMENT WITH IMF

FL212001 Bridgetown CANA in English 1918 GMT 21 Feb 85

[By Paget de Freitas]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 21, CANA -- Jamaica's Prime Minister Edward Seaga today confirmed that his government would enter a new agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) when the current stand-by facility expires in April. We certainly will have another IMF agreement, Seaga told journalists at a breakfast meeting. But I can't tell you exactly what will be in it. However, the prime minister, who is also the minister of finance, did indicate that much of the programme would be predicated on reducing over the next two years the fiscal budget deficit to four per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). It is not a question of new (economic) direction but further improvement on what has been achieved, Seaga said. The Seaga government is now into the last quarter of the 12-month programme -- its second with the fund -- under which Jamaica had undergone severe adjustments that have greatly pulled down living standards here. The administration has had to cut spending which have affected social services and subsidies, retrench thousands of public sector employess, impose a tight credit squeeze, and sharply devalue the Jamaican dollar. The result of the programme is for the government at the end of the current fiscal year in March to show a reduction in the fiscal deficit from 17 per cent to 8.3 per cent of GDP, and a balance of payments surplus of nearly U.S. 300 million dollars, of which around U.S. 100 million dollars must be liquid reserves. Jamaica in the 1984-85 fiscal year had a negative balance of payments of over U.S. 300 million dollars.

The prime minister, as he did in a Tuesday night parliamentary speech on the economy, said that current IMF targets could be achieved with a final concerted effort. The targets would have been comfortably achieved were it not for gas price demonstrations here last month which led to tourist cancellations and a fall-off in earnings. The problem, though, is not really with achievement of the targets; it is what happens next (fiscal) year, Seaga said. Despite Seaga's optimism of reaching year-end targets, the prime minister did disclose that there had been a technical gap in requirements for the last quarter which ended in December. He said a programmed loan due in December did not come on stream until the first week of January. A similar development occurred last September forcing the government to seek a saver from the IMF board to continue the programme.

Seaga's concern over possible difficulties in meeting targets under a future IMF agreement was largely based on the projected decline in foreign exchange inflows and other earnings from the bauxite-alumina sector with Alcoa's closure of its 550,000-tonne alumina refinery here and apprehension about further declines. The Alcoa closure will cost a U.S. 40-million-dollar gap and a shortfall of J 125 million dollars in the coming fiscal budget. There are fears here that the 1.1-million-tonne Alpart (Alumina partners) refinery might also close because of the decision of one of its owners, Atlantic Richfield, to pull out of the metal business and the apparent inability of the other partners, Kaiser and Reynolds, to take up the slack. In fact, Reynolds last June ended its mining operations in Jamaica. Informed industry sources here believe that mining and energy minister, Hugh Hart, who is now in North America, was discussing the Alpart situation with the principals, but Prime Minister Seaga could not comment on the strategies being employed to keeping the refinery, now operating at half its capacity, running. Jamaica's bauxite output declined from 12 million tonnes in 1980 to 7.7 million tonnes in 1983, and a near million tonne improvement was largely due to final shipments before Reynolds pulled out. Seaga said that over the three years Jamaica lost over U.S. 50 million dollars in bauxite levy earnings because of the down-turn, sharpening the country's problems.

BURNHAM ADDRESSES RALLY, CHARGES SUBVERSION

FL231600 Bridgetown CANA in English 1545 GMT 23 Feb 85

[By Edwin Ali]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 23, CANA -- Guyana President Forbes Burnham last night charged that concerted attempts are afoot to subvert and destabilise this socialist South American republic, to snuff out its leftist revolution. In a prepared speech to thousands at a midnight open air rally to mark the 15th anniversary of Guyana's republican status, Burnham said opponents -- he did not identify them -- were out to get Guyana, because we insist on being truly independent, and because we have chosen the non-capitalist route to development of our country for our people's benefit.

Burnham referred to a recent article in THE WASHINGTON TIMES in which he said writer Virginia Pruitt reported that nearly 10,000 (presumably local) men with an air squadron and tanks had been dispatched to Guyana's border with Brazil and that there were 15,000 Cuban soldier-workers in Guyana. In ordinary circumstances, he said, these discoveries may evoke amusement, and probably qualify this modern day Colombus for some one of those awards made annually to writers of fiction, but it discloses a game plan worthy of (chess masters) Fischer or Karpov, and is aimed at snuffing out our revolution. The Guyanese who supply this type of misinformation are anti-national in their behaviour, and ought to be rooted out and ostracised, to say the least, Burnham told the rally.

He said that at the same time these subversives, local and foreign, have been active in the industrial relations field, seeking as they did at (the key bauxite towns of) Linden and Kwakawani in 1983 to foment unrest. Burnham pleaded with Guyanese to join the government in fighting to keep the independence of this 83,000 square mile, financially beleaguered country intact. This is a matter of life and death; this is a question of survival. You cannot sit idly by and permit the workers substantial gains to be lost. You cannot fiddle, while fire is being set at the very foundations of our economic, social, and political edifice, nor can your government, he declared.

Burnham criticised major powers who he said had a tendency to see the world in terms of their own perceived interests, and to assume that the least a small nation can do is to allow itself to be dragged into the voting lobby by its would-be patron or benefactor. Very often, the major power is arrogant enough to state that one question or another is a gut issue for it, and to assume that the small nation must do its duty and without question accept the former's instructions or suggestions, Burnham told the rally, held for the first time at Republic Square, a stone's throw from his Georgetown official residence. This to us is not democracy, it is not independence. Small nations like Guyana too have interests, and gut issues. Small nations like Guyana too have preceptions. Small nations like Guyana too have the ability to think. Small nations like Guyana too want to be independent, especially after centuries of colonial rule and domination, and persuasion is one thing, dictation is another, Burnham declared.

The Guyana president said there was hardly a more fitting place to mark the republic anniversary than the square of the revolution, dominated by this massive 18-foot monument raised to the memory of the 1763 revolution and of the deeds, achievements, courage and spirit of Cuffy (the slave who led the revolution), and also by implication and inference to the need to remove from our midst the idle, the lazy, and the treacherous agents of the enemies of our revolution.